

SOUTHEAST ALASKA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME III

Central Council Tlingit & Haida
Elizabeth Peratrovich Hall

Juneau, Alaska
November 2, 2017
8:30 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Michael Bangs, Chair
Michael Douville
Donald Hernandez
Albert Howard
Cathy Needham
Patricia Phillips
Steve Reifenstuhl
Robert Schroeder
Raymond Sensmeier
John Yeager

Regional Council Coordinator, DeAnna Perry

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

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(Juneau, Alaska - 11/2/2017)

4

5

(On record)

6

7

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Please take your seats
and we'll get started.

8

9

10

(Pause)

11

12

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay, we're going to
start this morning by asking for public or tribal
comments on non-agenda items. Is there anyone who has
any non-agenda item comments.

13

14

15

16

17

(No comments)

18

19

CHAIRMAN BANGS: On line.

20

21

(No comments)

22

23

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Is there anyone on
line, could you identify yourself please.

24

25

26

MR. LOWELL: This is Rich Lowell with
Fish and Game at Petersburg.

27

28

29

MR. REEVES: Jeff Reeves, Forest
Service, Craig.

30

31

32

MR. CASIPIT: I'm Calvin Casipit.
Gustavus. I'm the proponent of 18-11 and 12.

33

34

35

MR. BETHUNE: Steve Bethune, Department
of Fish and Game, Sitka.

36

37

38

MR. BURCH: Mark Burch, Department of
Fish and Game in Palmer.

39

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41

MR. KERWIN: Josh Kerwin, Fish and
Wildlife, Metlakatla Indian Community.

42

43

44

MR. CROSS: This is Rob Cross with the
Forest Service in Sitka.

45

46

47

MR. KOLLER: Good morning. This is
Justin Koller with the Forest Service in Sitka.

48

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Anyone else.

2

3 MS. OEHLERS: Good morning. This is
4 Susan Oehlers with the Forest Service in Yakutat. I
5 was just checking to see if you heard me this morning.

6

7 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Yeah, good morning.
8 Welcome everyone.

9

10 We're going to start this morning with
11 a little dance routine thing from the local dancers. I
12 think they're waiting outside so we're going to let
13 them come in and do a little dance for us.

14

15 (Local dancers)

16

17 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Very nice. There's a
18 jar on the back table if you'd like to put in to show
19 our appreciation for them coming in and dancing for
20 us, and the donations go to regalia making, so give.
21 Nice thing.

22

23 Okay, we're going to start this morning
24 doing the Berners Bay proposal. And I think we have
25 some public testimony we'll get to later about the
26 Berners Bay but we're going to hear the analysis first.

27

28 Mr. Suminski.

29

30 MR. SUMINSKI: Good morning, Mr.
31 Chairman. Council members. I'm Terry Suminski with
32 the Forest Service.

33

34 Proposal WP18-11 requests that the
35 Federal Subsistence Board provide a Federal priority
36 for moose in Unit 1C, Berners Bay for rural residents,
37 or close Federal lands to the harvest of moose in 1C
38 Berners Bay to all users, or clearly state on the
39 record why a priority for moose should not be provided
40 to rural residents on the Federal public lands of
41 Berners Bay. The proposal was submitted by Calvin
42 Casipit of Gustavus and Justin Koller is the analyst.

43

44 MR. KOLLER: Good morning, Chairman
45 Bangs and members of the Council. For the record my
46 name is Justin Koller. I'm a subsistence biologist for
47 the United States Forest Service, Tongass National
48 Forest. The executive summary for WP18-11 can be found
49 on Page 241 of your books, and the analysis begins on

50

1 Page 244.

2

3 The proponent for this analysis
4 suggested three avenues for addressing Federal
5 subsistence priority for moose in Berners Bay
6 drainages. Our interpretation for this analysis was
7 that the proponent requests establishment of a Federal
8 season and harvest limit for moose in Berners Bay
9 drainages.

10

11 The Berners Bay drainages are
12 compromised of 97 percent Federal public land. Moose
13 were transplanted there in 1958 and 1960 and the
14 population quickly expanded. However, with limited
15 habitat in this geologically isolated area, the
16 population could not become very large. In Table 2 on
17 Page 248, the right hand column shows recent estimates
18 of the moose population in Berners Bay. Population
19 peaked in 2006 at about 131 animals and began the
20 familiar decline in 2007 to 2010 attributed to harsh
21 winter conditions. The population has since recovered
22 and a 2016 population estimate is about 141 animals,
23 which is quite likely above the carrying capacity of
24 the habitat in the area.

25

26 In short, this is a small population in
27 a small geographically isolated area that contains
28 limited moose habitat.

29

30 Prior to 2010 no customary and
31 traditional use determination had been made for moose
32 in Berners Bay drainages.

33

34 The Board adopted Proposal WP10-11
35 submitted by this Council which requested recognition
36 of customary and traditional uses of moose in 1C,
37 including Berners Bay by residents of Units 1 through
38 5. So all rural residents of Units 1 through 5 have a
39 customary and traditional use determination for moose
40 in Unit 1C including Berners Bay.

41

42 There's never been a Federal season for
43 moose in Berners Bay as the State season was never
44 admitted at the beginning of the Federal Subsistence
45 Management Program. When the Alaska Board of Game
46 considered making a customary and traditional use
47 determination for moose in the Berners Bay drainages it
48 concluded that there was no customary and traditional
49 use of this introduced moose population.

50

1 Proposal WP02-14 in 2002 requested
2 establishment of a Federal season but was deferred
3 because no customary and traditional use determination
4 had yet been made.

5
6 Proposal WP08-06b requested
7 establishment of a Federal season but the proposal was
8 deferred in part because of conservation concerns of
9 the population at the time.

10
11 The deferred proposal in 2010 was
12 rejected during that cycle also due to conservation
13 concerns.

14
15 These previous proposals requested a
16 Federal season for moose through a registration hunt.

17
18 Moose hunts in Berners Bay drainages
19 began in 1963 and have been administered by the Alaska
20 Department of Fish and Game. Moose in Berners Bay are
21 currently harvested under a State draw permit and the
22 number of permits available depends on recent estimates
23 of this small population. Draw hunts are primarily for
24 bulls, but in some years there has been a draw for cow
25 tags to manage the population's sex ratio.

26
27 On Page 251 and 252 you'll find Table
28 4, which illustrates the total number of permits issued
29 in a year, which ranges from zero to 20.

30
31 Table 6 on Page 254 illustrates that
32 only a small percentage of applicants for these draw
33 hunts are Federally-qualified subsistence users.
34 However, the number of Federally-qualified subsistence
35 users applying for these hunts routinely outnumbers the
36 number of permits available in a given year. In other
37 words the demand for Berners Bay moose by Federally-
38 qualified subsistence users routinely outweighs the
39 supply.

40
41 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
42 support this proposal, WP18-11 with modification to
43 close Federal public lands in Unit 1C Berners Bay
44 drainages to all but Federally-qualified subsistence
45 users, while also establishing a may be announced
46 antlerless season.

47
48 Establishing a Federal season in
49 Berners Bay drainages in Unit 1C would provide
50

1 additional opportunity for Federally-qualified
2 subsistence users to harvest a moose on Federal public
3 land. However, due to the small size of the population
4 and habitat limitations in Berners Bay drainages it's
5 not likely that the number of moose available for
6 harvest will be greater than the demand from Federally-
7 qualified subsistence users. Establishing a Federal
8 draw hunt would prevent over harvest while giving
9 preference to Federally-qualified subsistence users as
10 mandated by Title VIII of ANILCA. Establishing a may
11 be announced draw hunt for cow moose would provide
12 managers flexibility to manage for the desired bull to
13 cow ratio.

14
15 That concludes my presentation on WP18-
16 11.

17
18 Thank you.

19
20 I welcome your comments.

21
22 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you. Are there
23 any questions from the Council.

24
25 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.

26
27 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Ms. Phillips.

28
29 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman
30 Bangs.

31
32 Justin, is Berners Bay inside or
33 outside of the non-rural area of Juneau?

34
35 MR. KOLLER: Ms. Phillips, through the
36 Chair. I believe it's outside the non-rural area of
37 Juneau and Mr. Suminski, please, correct me if I'm
38 wrong on that.

39
40 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

41
42 Hi Justin, this is Pippa Kenner and I'm
43 with OSM in Anchorage. Berners Bay is within the non-
44 subsistence area of Juneau.

45
46 MR. KOLLER: Thank you, Pippa.

47
48 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Ms. Phillips.

2

3 MS. PHILLIPS: It is within the non-
4 subsistence area of Juneau, does that mean non-rural
5 area? My question is, is Juneau -- is Berners Bay in
6 the non-rural area of Juneau?

7

8 MS. KENNER: Thank you for that
9 question. I'm sorry I misinterpreted. Berners Bay is
10 not within the non-rural area of Juneau. But, of
11 course, rural and non-rural applies to residents, not
12 to land. So Federal public lands, for the purpose of
13 passing fish and game regulations exist throughout the
14 Juneau non-rural area. But it is outside of the Juneau
15 non-rural area.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Any other questions.

20

21 Mr. Kitka.

22

23 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. What
24 is the ruling on the introduced game within this type
25 of situation. I realize the moose were introduced and
26 so I don't know if there's any special rules attached
27 to that.

28

29 MR. KOLLER: Thank you, Mr. Kitka,
30 through the Chair. I believe the Federal Subsistence
31 Board does not differentiate between an introduced
32 animal and an endemic animal on Federal public land.
33 And I would defer to OSM to clarify that question, or
34 to answer.

35

36 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Any other question for
37 Mr. Koller.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Seeing none, thank
42 you, Justin.

43

44 MR. KOLLER: You're welcome, thank you.

45

46 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thanks, Terry.

47

48 MR. SUMINSKI: Thank you.

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Is there any
2 consultation on tribes or ANCSA Corporations.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Seeing none, can we
7 have the agency comments from the Alaska Department of
8 Fish and Game.

9
10 MS. SILL: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
11 members of the Council. For the record my name is
12 Lauren Sill, I'm the subsistence resource specialist of
13 the Division of Subsistence, Department of Fish and
14 Game. And up here with me is Stephanie Sell, the area
15 management biologist for Wildlife Conservation for this
16 area.

17
18 Berners Bay is with in the Juneau non-
19 subsistence use area. Moose were transplanted into the
20 area in 1958 and 1960. It's a vulnerable population
21 that has provided limited hunting opportunity since
22 that time. It's a challenging population to manage
23 with little movement into or out of the area and
24 limited available habitat. During winters with deep
25 snow the population is susceptible to substantial
26 declines.

27
28 ADF&G uses a variety of harvest
29 strategies to manage the population, alternating from
30 bulls only hunts to bull and cow hunts in an attempt to
31 balance the herd's sex ratio and keep the population
32 size within the carrying capacity of the range. The
33 Department conducts annual aerial surveys of the
34 population when conditions permit as well as deploys
35 radio collars.

36
37 The number of permits issued in Berners
38 Bay has ranged from five to 20 since 1983 with harvest
39 ranging from four to 15 moose. The season was closed
40 to all harvest in 2008 after a series of hard winters
41 that caused the population to decline. A draw hunt for
42 bull moose was authorized in 2013 with five permits
43 issued, and in 2016 seven permits were issued.

44
45 Berners Bay is also a challenging place
46 to access because of the tidal influence and river
47 gradient and it usually requires specialized equipment
48 and local knowledge to hunt successfully. The majority
49 of applicants for the drawing hunt have been Juneau
50

1 residents, although there's been a small number of
2 applicants from rural communities throughout the state.
3 Other moose hunting opportunities in Unit 1C are
4 provided on the Gustavus/Chilkat range and Taku River
5 moose populations.

6
7 The Department is neutral on this
8 proposal.

9
10 However, I'd like to raise a couple of
11 points for the Council to consider on their
12 deliberations.

13
14 While the Federal Subsistence Board did
15 make a positive customary and traditional use finding
16 for moose in all of Unit 1C for all rural residents of
17 Units 1 through 5, the Council could revisit that
18 finding and make an exception for Berners Bay, where,
19 patterns of use for moose have been significantly
20 different than for other moose populations in the unit.

21
22 Second, if this proposal were adopted
23 with the OSM modification, moose hunting opportunity in
24 Berners Bay would be denied to all Juneau residents,
25 including some residents who are previously rural
26 residents and still maintain a subsistence way of life
27 as well as to Aukewan Tribal members, who have
28 traditionally used Berners Bay for subsistence
29 activities.

30
31 And then, finally, the Council could
32 consider whether implementing a draw hunt for Berners
33 Bay moose, as requested in the proposal, adequately
34 addresses Section .804 of ANILCA, which states that
35 restrictions to subsistence uses are to be based on the
36 application of three criteria.

37
38 Customary and direct dependence upon
39 the population as the mainstay of
40 livelihood.

41
42 Local residency.

43
44 And, the availability of alternative
45 resources.

46
47 A draw hunt does not differentiate
48 among the diverse Federally-qualified users of Units 1
49 through 5 based on any criteria.

1 Thank you.

2
3 That's all of my comments.

4
5 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you. Questions.

6
7 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.

8
9 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Patty.

10
11 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman
12 Bangs. I probably should have asked Pippa but I'm not
13 understanding, what is this non-subsistence use area
14 mean?

15
16 MS. SILL: So that's a State
17 designation. I think there are five regions throughout
18 the state where the joint Boards of Fish and Game have
19 determined that there are not traditional subsistence
20 uses in this area. So there's an area around Juneau
21 that's slightly larger than the Federal non-rural area
22 and there's an area around Ketchikan as well, where
23 subsistence uses aren't permitted. So there are no
24 subsistence hunts, no subsistence fisheries.

25
26 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Other questions.

27
28 Bob.

29
30 MR. SCHROEDER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
31 Just while we have the State up there.

32
33 Could you perhaps describe how someone
34 might hunt moose in Berners Bay because it's kind of an
35 unusual situation, and I think that might help the
36 Council.

37
38 MS. SELL: Thank you, Council and Mr.
39 Chair, through -- Council Member Schroeder. For the
40 record my name is Stephanie Sell. I'm the area
41 management biologist for northern Southeast Alaska,
42 including Berners Bay.

43
44 You're absolutely correct. It is a
45 challenging environment. A majority of the access is
46 air boat or jet boat based. It takes a lot of
47 knowledge on terrain and getting up into the area. One
48 example that I will give you from this past season is a
49 rural subsistence user was successful in drawing a

50

1 permit, they were from Prince of Wales. They were
2 super excited when they got here and came and talked to
3 me and asked a bunch of questions and I asked them how
4 they planned to access Berners and they said that they
5 brought a prop boat and a canoe and my jaw dropped a
6 little bit and I was like, boy, I think you're going to
7 have a hard time getting into Berners Bay and certainly
8 they did. I encouraged them to access locals that have
9 air boats for the area. Their first trip up was hugely
10 unsuccessful and they finally actually got a hold of
11 somebody with an air boat and they finally were able to
12 get into Berners Bay and successfully harvest a moose
13 but it took the local knowledge and somebody with
14 access or the equipment necessary to get into Berners
15 Bay to actually harvest a moose.

16

17 So does that answer your question?

18

19 MR. SCHROEDER: Yes, that's a start.
20 I'm a Juneau resident and I dutifully put in my lottery
21 ticket for Berners Bay moose every year and in a couple
22 hundred years I hope I get drawn.

23

24 (Laughter)

25

26 MR. SCHROEDER: Just the talk on the
27 street, I don't know if this is true, so I'd like you
28 to confirm what I've heard, and it may not be true, is
29 that, if you're lucky enough to get a ticket then about
30 two hours later you get a call from somebody who says
31 I'll take you up there for half the moose. Are you
32 familiar with this system of hunting, and perhaps you
33 could describe it.

34

35 MS. SELL: Sure. And I'm not fortunate
36 enough to be able to put in for the draws but I
37 certainly encourage my husband to do so and he has also
38 not been drawn.

39

40 That is correct. There are certain
41 people that do spend a lot of time in Berners Bay and
42 they do have air boat access. I can't confirm -- I
43 think in the past they usually would be able to look up
44 who successfully drew permits and could get a hold of
45 those people and offer their assistance. You know,
46 sometimes I know that people around know that
47 information as well, so whether they get contacted by
48 these operators or they contact the operators, I don't
49 know which happens first, but certainly people around

50

1 here definitely know that they need to get a hold of
2 people that have air boats if they are successful in
3 drawing and want to actually get into Berners Bay.

4
5 MR. SCHROEDER: And just a followup.

6
7 I don't know that there's any problem
8 in -- or you tell me whether there's a problem if
9 someone is splitting the harvest as sort of the fee for
10 taking you up, or can you just talk about that
11 characteristic a little bit.

12
13 MS. SELL: Yeah, that's a very
14 interesting question. We have requirements for people
15 that are considered transporters, you know, and if
16 they're transporting people in the field and they're
17 taking monies, you know, they have to have permits for
18 certain things like that or have to be established for
19 those services. Whether they make an agreement on
20 saying, hey, I'm just a local Juneau guy that can take
21 you up and if you want to throw me some meat or give it
22 to me, you know, I can't speak to what actually happens
23 with that transaction.

24
25 MR. SCHROEDER: Just a quick followup
26 on that.

27
28 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Bob.

29
30 MR. SCHROEDER: Do we have licensed
31 transporters who work this hunt in Berners Bay?

32
33 MS. SELL: No, we do not.

34
35 MR. SCHROEDER: And just kind of
36 wrapping a bow around that, so from what I'm
37 understanding from my own hearsay knowledge and from
38 your expertise, is that, you really should be in an air
39 boat getting up in Berners Bay to have a chance at a
40 moose, or possibly a jet boat, and that quite typically
41 that's -- someone with local knowledge provides that
42 and it sounds like it's a little bit of an unclear area
43 with enumeration that person receives. Would you more
44 or less agree with that?

45
46 MS. SELL: I would agree with that,
47 yes.

48
49 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you. Mr.

50

1 Howard.

2

3 MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
4 I'm sitting here listening to Robert and I work as a
5 sportfishing guide in the summer, I'm required to have
6 a license, I can't even bring someone to a stream
7 without having that document with me or enforcement's
8 going to come and tell me I'm wrong and I'll lose my
9 ability to take care of my family.

10

11 So that's one thing.

12

13 The other thing is, if I take somebody
14 hunting and -- at home and tell them I want half the
15 deer, that -- someone interprets that as me being a
16 guide because I'm getting paid in meat, that's the
17 barter system that's addressed in customary and
18 traditional trade. The State allows you to only trade
19 so much of it. There's a value system put on it.

20

21 So there's two things wrong here.

22

23 We have unlicensed captains bringing
24 them up and this half a moose is definitely worth more
25 than \$300.

26

27 So why is this being allowed in one
28 area and not the rest of the state. That's two
29 standards I'm looking at.

30

31 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

32

33 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Howard.

34

35 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.

36

37 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Patty.

38

39 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman
40 Bangs.

41

42 In our Staff analysis, or in our
43 booklet it doesn't show the Fish and Game comment and
44 while I appreciate you coming before us and giving the
45 comment, Lauren, it went so fast, what is the -- what
46 do you mean by modification? What -- can you slow down
47 on that part a little bit and explain it.

48

49 MS. SILL: Yeah, through the Chair.

50

1 Ms. Phillips.

2

3 Just the original proposal, I believe
4 -- well, is that the original proposal that's up there
5 -- I think they've given a variety of options, and the
6 OSM, their comment was to support the proposal with the
7 modification to close Federal lands to non-Federally-
8 qualified users and that wasn't in the original
9 proposal, that it would necessarily -- at least that's
10 how I understood what I was reading.

11

12 So based on -- all I was saying that
13 just the clear definition to close the lands to non-
14 Federally-qualified users.

15

16 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chairman.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Patty.

19

20 MS. PHILLIPS: Just the clarification,
21 you're saying the State supports closing the non-
22 Federally-qualified?

23

24 MS. SILL: No. No.

25

26 MS. PHILLIPS: So.....

27

28 MS. SILL: I was -- was -- was just
29 saying that if -- if the proposal gets adopted with
30 that qualification, that Federal lands are closed to
31 non-Federally-qualified users, just the -- the effects
32 of what that would be, just reiterating that it would
33 -- who it would be closing it to, yeah.

34

35 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Could the person on
36 line that has a dog, could you mute your phone, please,
37 unless you're going to speak.

38

39 Thank you.

40

41 Any other questions.

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Seeing none, thank
46 you.

47

48 Are there any Federal agency comments.

49

50

1 (No comments)
2
3 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Tribal entities.
4
5 (No comments)
6
7 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Other Regional
8 Councils.
9
10 (No comments)
11
12 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Fish and.....
13
14 MS. PERRY: No, Mr. Chair.
15
16 CHAIRMAN BANGS:Game Advisory
17 Committees.
18
19 MS. PERRY: No, Mr. Chair.
20
21 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Subsistence Resource
22 Commissions.
23
24 MS. PERRY: No.
25
26 MR. BUYARSKI: Fish and Game Advisory
27 Committee.
28
29 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Yes, I just asked for
30 any.....
31
32 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: They were moving
33 quickly.....
34
35 MR. BUYARSKI: I know. I know. That's
36 why -- I'm not so shy. Good morning, Mr. Chairman and
37 members. My name is Ed Buyarski. I am the vice-Chair
38 of the Juneau/Douglas Fish and Game Advisory Committee.
39 I have lived in Southeast Alaska since 1983, Wrangell,
40 Petersburg, Sitka, Juneau eating, hunting, fishing,
41 gathering in all those places, berries, crabs, fish,
42 deer, bears. Porcupines was my first legal harvest
43 once I became a resident in Petersburg and I still
44 harvest many porcupines in Juneau in our yard.
45
46 (Laughter)
47
48 MR. BUYARSKI: More than I would like,
49 honestly. So, please, if you like porcupines give me a
50

1 call I'll set you up next year.

2

3

(Laughter)

4

5

6

7

8

9

10 We feel, even though -- we feel it is
11 our backyard. I know other folks are concerned about
12 having hunters, fishermen, gatherers in your backyards,
13 this is our backyard. We did, in the history of this
14 area, the Territorial Sportsman, a Juneau based
15 organization helped support the initial transplant back
16 in the late '50s, early '60s with cash and man power.
17 And the justification back then was for a recreational
18 opportunity for local folks. There was no -- there
19 were no moose there so there's not a long history of
20 moose harvest in that area.

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Some 90 percent of the harvest which
has happened of those moose, over at least the last 20
years, based on the statistics, are by Juneau, Douglas,
Auke Bay residents. I was lucky enough to draw one of
those permits when they just reopened it in, I think it
was '13 or '14, and was successful in getting a moose
and I did have assistance from folks who knew the
valley, who had been hunting and fishing and trapping
in that valley. I've helped a friend trap in that
valley.

I have -- we have a serious problem
with our backyard being closed to our harvest.

Again, I know other folks who harvest
-- go out there for eulachon, berries, they trap up
there, they do hunt, they do fish and enjoy that area a
lot and there's tourism also, kayaks, various folks go
up there, camp and do other activities.

I shared the meat that I was fortunate
enough to harvest. While waiting for my moose to come
along I was picking high bush cranberries, I shared the
cranberry sauce that I made, which went really well
with that moose, those moose roasts from that animal.
I really -- we really have a problem with having one of
our local opportunities -- this is only 10 miles --
less than 10 miles off the end of the road system from
Juneau, so that's our access. There's a boat launch

1 there where we can launch our boats, and our friends
2 can launch their boats and go up into Berners Bay to
3 harvest, to recreate, this is our local area. This is
4 our backyard.

5
6 I hear it from other members and other
7 folks testifying over the last three days about having
8 their backyards being taken by -- harvesting by non-
9 locals, we are the locals, this is our backyard, this
10 is where we do harvest. And we do not want this to
11 change. Right now everyone in Alaska has access, just
12 as we do, including subsistence people who have gotten
13 permits. Some of my friends from Petersburg, where I
14 used to live and subsist, some of my friends from
15 Haines, where I have hunted moose with a permit, have
16 gotten moose there, and from Sitka. So it is available
17 to them, to you now. So don't change this for a couple
18 of moose to exclude Juneau's opportunity to get moose
19 in our backyard.

20
21 Thank you.

22
23 And I'd be happy to take some questions
24 about what we did and how we live here in Juneau and
25 how I subsist -- I should say how I hunt and gather, I
26 guess I can't subsist.

27
28 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Mr.
29 Buyarski. Is there any questions.

30
31 Mr. Schroeder.

32
33 MR. SCHROEDER: Ed thanks very much for
34 coming before the Council.

35
36 If you could describe a little bit how
37 the hunt proceeds so, in other words, if someone gets a
38 -- is lucky to draw a tag, how they actually get up
39 there and how it works out on.....

40
41 MR. BUYARSKI: Sure.

42
43 MR. SCHROEDER: I'm an anthropologist
44 so I always have to ask the same question two or three
45 times.

46
47 MR. BUYARSKI: That's okay.

48
49 MR. SCHROEDER: So I asked the State

50

1 that, and if you could just describe how people get up
2 there and what arrangements are made and.....

3
4 MR. BUYARSKI: Sure.

5
6 MR. SCHROEDER:how difficult the
7 hunt is.

8
9 MR. BUYARSKI: Sure. Having been in --
10 well, first you have to draw a tag. That, as you know,
11 is the challenge. And I've applied, I don't know, 20-
12 some years for a tag and I've lived in Juneau 25 years,
13 I think I started applying when I moved here because I
14 didn't know anything about that area before coming here
15 from some of the other towns, Sitka and Petersburg and
16 Wrangell.

17
18 Logistically it is a challenge to get
19 out there. I own a couple of canoes and inflatables, I
20 don't own a boat anymore, I know I found out that's a
21 bad idea for me to own a boat, so I do swap and trade
22 my produce, my potatoes and garlic and other stuff for
23 fishing trips. Help pay for the fuel for a friend
24 who's got an airplane so we can go deer hunting or
25 fishing in other areas. And in this case, I knew that
26 there were some folks who had the local knowledge of
27 Berners Bay that other folks said, give them a call and
28 they'll help and they did. And without them I couldn't
29 have -- I could not have been successful in that area.

30
31 So we did go up there, we figured out
32 when we could go and went up into the valley with an
33 air boat and got into some of the places that were good
34 locations. We spent hours calling, I mean I can --
35 I've learned to call moose thanks to some good friends
36 of mine, some of them laugh at my calling efforts but
37 the moose come to me so I don't care if they think I
38 don't sound very much like a bull moose or a cow moose,
39 it works, so called the moose in -- called and called
40 and called and like I said I was picking high bush
41 cranberries while waiting, I was on my third gallon bag
42 of high bush cranberries calling with my rifle over my
43 shoulder and, you know, look up and look around and go
44 back to picking berries and looked up and, ha, here's a
45 moose looking at me, a bull moose looking at me from
46 about 75 yards away, I dropped my bag of berries and
47 picked up my rifle, slung it to my shoulder and dropped
48 a moose and my partner, who was calling in a different
49 direction, he hadn't even seen the moose, he was

50

1 surprised, heard the shot and saw it go down with a
2 splash and helped me get it out with his air boat.

3
4 Again, without his help, I would not
5 have been successful.

6
7 And, I guess, maybe some of you know
8 people like that, who help you hunt and gather the meat
9 and fish for your families. Some of them have
10 commercial fishing boats, some of them have charter
11 fishing boats, and some of those folks, again, I swap
12 for their services and I share. That's what I do.

13
14 I can get more meat or fish some years
15 than I can use, my family can use, my extended family
16 can use so I share that and I think that's -- that's
17 what we need to do.

18
19 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you. Any other
20 questions for Mr. Buyarski.

21
22 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.

23
24 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Patty.

25
26 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman
27 Bangs.

28
29 Thank you, sir.

30
31 Is the Juneau Advisory Committee
32 familiar with ANILCA and the regulations under the
33 subsistence program, ANILCA Title VIII, which is
34 subsistence management and use, have they considered
35 what options -- I mean you could request Staff
36 assistance at that, how you could find some way to
37 continue with your soci -- you know your customary
38 practices?

39
40 MR. BUYARSKI: We have had -- when we
41 have our meetings -- through the Chair, we have had
42 briefings, both from Fish and Game, from our
43 subsistence coordinator and others about the different
44 areas. We do, as you know, just like you get
45 proposals, we get proposals on fish and game issues,
46 seasons, bag limits and all of that, and we have seen
47 where there is a difference between subsistence and
48 non-subsistence users and what our options are. We are
49 steadily being restricted in our options. And with the
50

1 assertion that because we -- we have Fred -- I can
2 drive to Fred Meyers, I can go buy meat, chicken, pork,
3 beef, I don't eat much beef, chicken some, so we have
4 that option but we choose, many of us choose to hunt
5 wild game just as you do and wild fish and wild berries
6 and so we don't see that our choices -- we don't see us
7 -- we don't see ourselves being given more choices, we
8 are given -- it appears we are being given less
9 choices, less opportunity and this would certainly be
10 -- this proposal would remove opportunity for us in our
11 backyard.

12
13 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chairman, followup
14 please.

15
16 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Patty.

17
18 MS. PHILLIPS: I think you
19 misunderstood my question. We are authorized under the
20 Alaska National Interests Lands Conservation Act, Title
21 VIII, subsistence management and uses, and we've been
22 in effect -- I mean I've been on this RAC since, I
23 think, what, 1993, and much of the program was adopted
24 from the State system.

25
26 MR. BUYARSKI: Uh-huh.

27
28 MS. PHILLIPS: And over these 20-some
29 years we've been amending these regulations to make
30 them more pro-subsistence in the Federal -- on Federal
31 lands for Federally-qualified subsistence harvesters.

32
33 MR. BUYARSKI: Uh-huh.

34
35 MS. PHILLIPS: So what I'm seeing here
36 is that Berners Bay is outside the non-rural area.....

37
38 MR. BUYARSKI: Uh-huh.

39
40 MS. PHILLIPS:of Juneau.....

41
42 MR. BUYARSKI: Uh-huh.

43
44 MS. PHILLIPS:but by State
45 standards, it's a non-subsistence use area.

46
47 MR. BUYARSKI: Uh-huh.

48
49 MS. PHILLIPS: So what I see is the

50

1 Juneau Advisory Committee could bring this problem
2 statement to the Federal system, saying this needs to
3 be resolved and.....

4
5 MR. BUYARSKI: Uh-huh.

6
7 MS. PHILLIPS:in the meantime we
8 are an advisory -- you know, as an advisory group, have
9 to follow our mandate.

10
11 MR. BUYARSKI: Uh-huh.

12
13 MS. PHILLIPS: Which is a preference
14 for Federally-qualified subsistence harvesters on
15 Federal public lands. So as a suggestion, is Berners
16 Bay within the city and borough of Juneau.

17
18 MR. BUYARSKI: Yes.

19
20 MS. PHILLIPS: And when these non-rural
21 areas were delineated how was that boundary decided and
22 bring that forward. In the meantime we have to do what
23 we have to do and.....

24
25 MR. BUYARSKI: Uh-huh.

26
27 MS. PHILLIPS:up until now it's
28 been deferred and now we have a Federally-qualified
29 harvester kind of pushing the issue on us so.....

30
31 MR. BUYARSKI: Uh-huh.

32
33 MS. PHILLIPS:no disrespect for
34 you and.....

35
36 MR. BUYARSKI: Thank you.

37
38 MS. PHILLIPS:I recognize your
39 practices but we, as a body, have to.....

40
41 MR. BUYARSKI: Uh-huh.

42
43 MS. PHILLIPS:try to figure out
44 what we're going to do so thank you.

45
46 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

47
48 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Patty.

49
50

1 MR. BUYARSKI: May I respond.

2
3 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay.

4
5 MR. BUYARSKI: Through the Chair. As I
6 understand the city and borough of Juneau encompasses a
7 very large area which includes parts of Admiralty
8 Island, quite a number of the other islands -- channel
9 islands as well as a good portion of the mainland, upon
10 which we live, I live, and those areas -- many of those
11 -- much of that area is -- well, Admiralty Island
12 certainly is a subsistence area, though we can also
13 hunt there with a reduced bag limit and a reduced
14 season. Some of the other areas, Douglas Island, is,
15 as I understand it, is available to me but is also
16 available to subsistence users to come to there --
17 although, at least Douglas Island, as I understand it,
18 is based on State regulations and not the Federal
19 subsistence regulations, although I may be wrong. So
20 there's a lot of overlap within the city and borough of
21 Juneau on their lands, which are included, some of
22 that's for tax purposes, like the mines, so the city
23 gets mining revenues, or gets tax revenue from the
24 mines, the land around it is Federal land and there's
25 Federal permits for that so, again, there's lots of
26 subsistence areas within the borough of Juneau already.

27
28 And we realize there are limits, again,
29 there are differing limits for me versus my friends
30 from Sitka or my friends from Petersburg or Haines on
31 those same lands within our borough. That complicates
32 matters, of course, and, again, you know, we're
33 specific with the Berners Bay issue, which was a local
34 issue and local money, plus State money, plus the Fish
35 and Wildlife Service and the Air Force helped in the
36 transport of these moose to transplant them in there
37 so, again, everyone has access to those moose now. But
38 this proposal seeks to eliminate our access to those
39 moose which we helped pay to bring in in recent times.
40 So that's my specific concern about that area and many
41 of us have those same, very specific concerns about
42 that area, because of this proposal, by someone who
43 lives in the same unit, 1C, as we do, proposing to
44 close it to residents of that unit and that
45 neighborhood.

46
47 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you. Mr. Howard
48 and then Don.

49
50

1 MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm
2 sitting here listening to what you're saying and to me
3 your definition of your backyard is different than
4 mine. In my backyard nobody takes me up in their boat,
5 helps me get a moose because in my backyard I know
6 where to go, when to be there, how to get there,
7 and.....

8
9 MR. BUYARSKI: Uh-huh.

10
11 MR. HOWARD:I use my own ability
12 to get there.

13
14 MR. BUYARSKI: Uh-huh.

15
16 MR. HOWARD: So I guess the point I'm
17 making is it seems like this is what we have here is a
18 rural community which designates them as subsistence
19 users.....

20
21 MR. BUYARSKI: Uh-huh.

22
23 MR. HOWARD:trying to, for their
24 reasons, trying to close an area to non-Federally-
25 qualified users so they have more for theirs.

26
27 Now, looking at it from -- I'm from
28 Angoon, Admiralty.....

29
30 MR. BUYARSKI: Uh-huh. Uh-huh.

31
32 MR. HOWARD:Island. You know, if
33 you talk to our elders, Juneau had no right to put it
34 into the borough when you look at the Federal
35 guidelines of.....

36
37 MR. BUYARSKI: Uh-huh.

38
39 MR. HOWARD:creating a borough
40 the land has to be contiguous. A former mayor and I
41 have to include he was a Veteran, when they did that he
42 said, I'll put my boots on and the mayor of Juneau can
43 put their boots on, whoever gets there first they can
44 claim it because according to Federal law the land had
45 to be contiguous.

46
47 MR. BUYARSKI: Uh-huh.

48
49 MR. HOWARD: But what I'm getting to is
50

1 Gustavus is designated rural so they.....

2

3 MR. BUYARSKI: Uh-huh.

4

5 MR. HOWARD:have subsistence
6 rights that we have to recognize as.....

7

8 MR. BUYARSKI: Uh-huh.

9

10 MR. HOWARD:a board. My question
11 is, do you have the Douglas Indian Association on your
12 commission?

13

14 MR. BUYARSKI: Not that I know of, sir.

15

16 MR. HOWARD: Do you have any of the
17 Aukewaan on your commission?

18

19 MR. BUYARSKI: I can't answer that. I
20 don't know that. I am not sure of their -- I don't
21 know of their heritage specifically and I don't ask of
22 the members on our board.

23

24 MR. HOWARD: Mr. Chairman. If somebody
25 has that designation they'll let you know, you don't
26 have to ask.

27

28 MR. BUYARSKI: Okay.

29

30 MR. HOWARD: Do you have anyone that
31 lives in Berners Bay on your commission?

32

33 MR. BUYARSKI: I know of no one who
34 lives permanently in Berners Bay. The only -- the only
35 temporary folks who are living in and around it are
36 folks at the mine.

37

38 MR. HOWARD: Okay, thank you, Mr.
39 Chair.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Albert.
42 Any other questions.

43

44 Mr. Hernandez.

45

46 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
47 Buyarski. I could probably get this information by
48 closely reading through all the tables and graphs and
49 stuff in the analysis but you could probably give it to

50

1 me a little more succinctly. What would you say would
2 be the, you know, success rate for somebody who was
3 hunting Berners Bay assuming that they had adequate
4 means to get there, transportation, would you say it
5 was like excellent or good or fair or.....

6
7 MR. BUYARSKI: Excellent is -- is
8 certainly there, yes, and, again, that's where --
9 looking at the permit, those -- at the permit numbers
10 and the success ratio is very high because, again,
11 knowing the right people makes the difference, who know
12 that area, just as if you go out hunting or fishing you
13 know your spot and you know what sort of bait to use or
14 you know what it takes to harvest in that area because
15 of your past history.

16
17 MR. HERNANDEZ: Right. Okay, that's
18 helpful, thank you.

19
20 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you. Anyone
21 else have a question for Mr. Buyarski.

22
23 (No comments)

24
25 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you.

26
27 MR. BUYARSKI: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

28
29 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay. We're going to
30 get a summary of the written public comments.

31
32 Ms. Perry.

33
34 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

35
36 The written public comments for
37 Wildlife Proposal 18-11 begin in your meeting book on
38 Page 259. Three comments were received.

39
40 One comment was received from Curtis
41 Donald Thomas of Ketchikan addressing all Southeast
42 proposals and a key view points were that attempts were
43 being made to fix a problem that does not exist and he
44 expressed concerns regarding new classes of citizens
45 with special hunting rights being created, residency
46 criteria and the ability of some Alaskans to harvest 20
47 halibut a day.

48
49 Two comments in opposition were

50

1 received from Nicholas Orr and one from Jerry Burnett,
2 president of Territorial Sportsmen Incorporated
3 supporting the third option of this proposal, which is
4 to clearly state on the record why a priority for moose
5 should not be provided to rural residents on the
6 Federal public lands of Berners Bay.

7
8 The points of these two comments
9 included, there was no historical moose population in
10 Berners Bay with no accompanying customary and
11 traditional use of moose. Location of moose is not
12 located near any rural communities. The introduced
13 moose population by government and private efforts in
14 the late '50s and in 1960 aided by attentive management
15 has provided an extremely popular hunt for over 50
16 years to all Alaskans as well as hunters from other
17 states. Funds used to pay for the transplant came from
18 the firearm and ammunition purchases in the US and
19 State hunting license fees from all who purchased a
20 hunting license in Alaska, residents and non-residents.
21 This population can only sustain limited harvest via a
22 revenue generating State tag drawing system which is in
23 very high demand and moose were transplanted for
24 increased recreational opportunities and has become a
25 tradition.

26
27 That concludes the written public
28 comments on Wildlife Proposal 18-11.

29
30 Thank you.

31
32 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Ms. Perry.

33
34 Okay, we're going to take public
35 testimony now and what we'll do is take the public
36 testimony here in the room first and then we will go to
37 the testimony on the phone line.

38
39 So we have Ed Buyarski again. Did you
40 feel comfortable with giving your testimony for both
41 the AC and yourself.

42
43 MR. BUYARSKI: I would certainly give
44 more if you would let me but I would rather have others
45 talk first.

46
47 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay, that sounds
48 good.

1 Kim Titus.

2

3 MR. TITUS: Do I push this button.

4

5 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Yes.

6

7 MR. TITUS: Thank you and good morning.

8 Thank you for the opportunity to speak on Proposal

9 WP18-11. My name is Kim Titus, I live at 4638 River

10 Road in Juneau.

11

12 As a hunter and Alaska resident I've
13 never had the opportunity to hunt moose in this area
14 because I've never drawn a permit like many in this
15 room, yet, I have a desire to hunt moose in Berners Bay
16 if afforded the opportunity. I hunt moose and caribou,
17 generally up north where the opportunities are far
18 better.

19

20 I'd divide my comment into three parts
21 of the proposal, noting that the three approaches
22 requested by the proponent are a bit confusing. It
23 also seems that the proposed regulation, as written by
24 Staff, seems to exert wide-editorial interpretation in
25 the modification, such as the proponent's request to
26 consider a closed season. It is unclear to me how the
27 Office of Subsistence Management preliminary conclusion
28 was arrived at from the meeting materials made to the
29 public. I can't necessarily connect the dots between
30 the proposal and the OSM in this case, fully.

31

32 So given the three parts I'll start
33 with part one of the proposal from the proponent and
34 that's provide a Federal priority for moose.

35

36 I do not support a Federal priority for
37 Berners Bay moose. I fully agree with the longstanding
38 practice that Alaskans who rely on subsistence do take
39 advantage of newly established wildlife populations
40 over time. This is especially true in the last decade
41 in parts of Alaska where moose have expanded their
42 ranges in western and southwestern Alaska. There are
43 now expanded hunting and harvest opportunities that
44 were put in place through cooperation between local
45 villages, advisory committees, Alaska Native groups,
46 the Alaska Board of Game, the Federal Subsistence Board
47 and then implementation through the State and Federal
48 managers. In a smaller way, as has recently also
49 occurred in central Southeast where moose have

50

1 naturally expanded their range all the way to Kuiu
2 Island and they are harvested locally, especially by
3 residents of Petersburg and the Organized Village of
4 Kake, yet, I find the Berners Bay moose transplant
5 situation to be very different. Defining a Federal
6 priority for a small isolated moose population with no
7 on-site community, aside from Juneau, that we can argue
8 about, and very difficult hunting logistics seems very
9 inappropriate to me.

10
11 I suggest that providing a Federal
12 drawing permit will, A, not provide any meaningful
13 establishment of a customary and traditional use
14 culture among those who obtain a permit because there
15 is no ability to obtain it consistently over time and,
16 B, it disenfranchises the small number of Juneau and
17 other Southeast hunters who have a relationship to
18 Berners Bay and moose hunting.

19
20 Part two, close the harvest of moose on
21 Federal lands in Berners Bay to all users, which is
22 part of the proposal. I don't understand why the
23 proponent desires to close essentially all moose
24 hunting in Berners Bay. I support a continued
25 sustainable harvest by Alaskans.

26
27 Part three, the proponent requests that
28 the Federal Subsistence Board clearly state on the
29 record why a priority for moose should not be provided
30 to rural residents. I agree with this portion of the
31 proposal. I know of know customary and traditional use
32 of this transplanted population. The closest thing to
33 a traditional use of these moose are by the small
34 numbers of Juneau and other Southeast residents who
35 have a modest period of use of Berners Bay to harvest
36 fish and wildlife resources and have access to the
37 area. However, even these individuals do not regularly
38 harvest moose because they are subject to the chances
39 and vagaries of the drawing hunt process, yet, those
40 who do harvest moose do share the animal, as occurs for
41 moose harvest virtually across the entire state.
42 People share moose when they go moose hunting, commonly
43 takes place up north where two or three people go into
44 hunt along the rivers and they only harvest one moose
45 because it's a lot of meat to share.

46
47 Finally, it seems unreasonable to me to
48 Federalize this hunt with some sort of lottery system.
49 This approach is confusing to me and seems contrary to
50

1 what subsistence is all about.

2

3 Finally, I must comment on the Staff
4 analysis that establishing a may be announced cow
5 harvest at appropriate -- quote/unquote, appropriate
6 populations and sex ratios, is to vague for me as a
7 wildlife professional. Moose management and research
8 across Alaska is among the most sophisticated in the
9 world, we have excellent moose managers and researchers
10 both at the State and Federal level across our great
11 state and these hunts, based on that information, are
12 often tailored to meet the needs of locals. I suggest
13 that there must be more specifics from the Federal
14 wildlife professionals including information on their
15 approach to monitoring should the hunt be Federalalized
16 and the State reduces or eliminates its research and
17 monitoring efforts that have been going on there for
18 decades. Are Forest Service wildlife staff prepared to
19 partner with ADF&G as occurs in many parts of the
20 State, with the Park Service and Fish and Wildlife
21 Service where biologists and pilots share aircraft,
22 personnel and other assets to pull off a moose survey,
23 I don't know, I can't tell from this Staff analysis
24 because it's too vague. If Forest Service biologists
25 are unable to jump in a Super Cub to monitor a
26 population, I suggest there will be even fewer moose to
27 harvest by anyone because the a conservative harvest
28 strategy will necessarily be used, that's a basic
29 tenant of fisheries and wildlife management, when you
30 have more uncertainty you have a more conservative
31 harvest approach.

32

33 Moose are not deer in terms of harvest
34 management approach, we must have good information and
35 some realtime and timely population estimates.

36

37 Once, again, thank you for the
38 opportunity to comment.

39

40 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you. Any
41 questions for Mr. Titus.

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you for your
46 time and your testimony.

47

48 Next, Nick Yurko. I probably didn't
49 get your name right, I'm sorry.

50

1 MR. YURKO: You butchered it but that's
2 all right.

3
4 Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. My
5 name is Nick Yurko. I live here in Juneau. I live at
6 9412 Long Run Drive. I am a participant of Berners Bay.
7 I've been doing it since about 1970 before the ANILCA
8 Act went into effect. I trap up there and I hunt, you
9 know, we hunt goats, moose and I do trap wolves,
10 wolverine, marten. I am an ex-Board member of the
11 Department of Fish and Game.

12
13 A couple of you guys I've heard that
14 you are from Southeast, you have applied for Berners
15 Bay permits, I have to, and I have never drawn one in
16 all the years that I've been here. I have a daughter,
17 she drew one, most likely I'd take her again if she
18 did.

19
20 Like you said, I do have an airboat, I
21 use it year-round. That is my snowmobile in the
22 wintertime for trapping. I do take people up into
23 Berners Bay moose hunting since I kind of live in the
24 area. Ed Buyarski is one of the gentleman I did take.
25 I took three people last year. And the only way you
26 could have got around last year was with an airboat, we
27 had no water. And the airboat is very good about
28 having no water, it's even better yet. This year I
29 took two people up this year to get their moose. I do
30 not call anybody. If you draw a permit, you call me.
31 I know the area. I've been all through the whole area.
32 A couple of you guys, the gentleman from Angoon, has he
33 ever applied for the Berners Bay permit, it's, you
34 know, we have people from everywhere in Southeast that
35 do apply.

36
37 That's pretty much -- I covered just
38 about everything I do up there and how I do it.

39
40 Thank you.

41
42 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you. Mr.
43 Howard, you have a question.

44
45 MR. HOWARD: Mr. Chairman. I am pretty
46 respectful of people and their areas. I realize people
47 use Berners Bay for certain reasons and that's, I
48 guess, you would call it their backyard so, no, I
49 haven't, I have no reason to. I don't have the money

50

1 to come up here and hunt and pay somebody to take me in
2 an airboat. It's unrealistic.

3
4 At times I look at the money I do spend
5 to go out and provide for my family and I sit at home
6 and I think I might be better off buying pork chops
7 because it's cheaper.

8
9 So do you take moose for taking people
10 up to Berners Bay?

11
12 MR. YURKO: If they give it to me I do
13 take it. I can't say I won't because it is very good.
14 It's organic.

15
16 MR. HOWARD: Being on the Board prior
17 to retiring then you should understand the rules and
18 regulations I'm bound by. Somebody comes to Angoon and
19 says, Albert, can you take me out and I'll give you
20 some deer, I said I can't take any deer from you, I
21 can't even take gas money from you. I said I can go
22 hunting with you, that way it's not interpreted as me
23 guiding you. The interpretation of guiding somebody is
24 taking them to a spot where the deer are that they
25 wouldn't know where they are. I've learned this over
26 the years because Fish and Game spends a lot of time in
27 our backyard. They are definitely -- you know you got
28 to dot every I and cross every T. So, you know, my
29 father's a retired magistrate so over the years he's
30 taught me that you've got to do things by the book so
31 you don't have to worry about it.

32
33 We've adjusted our lives to the laws
34 that were created after our grandfathers have done
35 things traditionally.

36
37 Sitting on a stream traditionally
38 feeding his family, one day he woke up and someone told
39 him he couldn't do it anymore. That was a law created
40 for him. We adjust to the laws. What we're doing
41 here, and I believe my presence on this Board is to
42 ensure those laws don't get change and unnecessarily
43 hurt the people in the rural communities.

44
45 We're feeling the squeeze from every
46 angle, Sitka, Juneau, everybody comes to Admiralty now.
47 So, you know, I'll be respectful of what you do there
48 but when you ask me if I draw a tag there, I have no
49 reason to.

50

1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Howard.
4 Okay, we need to move along here and stick to the
5 proposal.

6

7 Dr. Schroeder.

8

9 MR. SCHROEDER: Just perhaps this will
10 finish up on my questions about access, but if you
11 could just talk about how difficult it is to get up in
12 this area and can you always give up given the area in
13 Southeast or do you need a couple of days, you know, if
14 I say Tuesday it might be Friday and if you could just
15 talk about the access to the area. And I really
16 appreciate your local knowledge of this terrain up
17 there.

18

19 MR. YURKO: Okay. You can drive to the
20 end of the road. You have eight miles of open water to
21 go across to get to Berners Bay. Once you get to
22 Berners Bay, then you get into the river system which
23 is all glacier fed, which is very shallow water. The
24 jetboats do all right if there's water but like I said
25 year before last we had two weeks without rain and
26 there was no water, we were driving the airboats on dry
27 ground. And this is about the easiest and best way to
28 get around up there is with an airboat.

29

30 There's a lot -- there's not very many
31 airboats in Juneau and I can't see where somebody
32 coming from Haines down to Juneau by ferry and then get
33 to Berners Bay, if you're going to bring a boat down
34 from Haines, you're going to tow it with a vehicle and
35 the ferry system is not very cheap. Five years ago it
36 cost me a thousand dollars roundtrip to go from Juneau
37 to Haines with my boat. Economically it's very
38 expensive for the rural people to get here, you know,
39 to get to Juneau, and then to go utilize the Berners
40 Bay moose hunt, you know.

41

42 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you. Mr.
43 Hernandez, you have a followup question.

44

45 MR. HERNANDEZ: I'll ask the question,
46 you don't have to answer if you don't feel like it.

47

48 But if you got a call from somebody
49 from Haines who wanted to go up the river with you,

50

1 what would you tell them?

2

3 MR. YURKO: I know a lot of people from
4 Haines and most likely they would have probably been
5 suggested from one of my friends up in Haines. I would
6 take them. I do an awful lot of volunteer work here in
7 Juneau and everybody knows me throughout. I put 27
8 years in the school district here as well so I was
9 active in the schools with the kids so I -- I don't
10 think -- I've been called from a guy from Hoonah to
11 take him so, you know, I would take anybody.

12

13 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, I appreciate
14 your answer.

15

16 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay, thank you. Is
17 there any other questions from Mr. Yurko.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you for your
22 testimony and coming, the time spent coming here,
23 appreciate it.

24

25 MR. YURKO: Okay. Thank you.

26

27 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay. We're going to
28 go to the phone. We have one written comment that I'll
29 have Ms. Perry read into the record and then we'll go
30 to the phone line for public testimony.

31

32 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I was
33 handed a written comment from Mike, and I'm probably
34 not going to say his last name right, Nisich. I'm
35 sorry if I am pronouncing that incorrectly. He is
36 from Fritz Cove Road here in Juneau. And his comment
37 is as follows:

38

39 Proposal WP18-11 requests that the
40 Federal Subsistence Board provide a Federal priority
41 for moose in Unit 1C Berners Bay for rural residents or
42 closed to all users.

43

44 The moose population in Berners Bay was
45 initially established in cooperation with State,
46 Federal and private funding and resources to provide an
47 increase in hunting opportunities for sport and
48 recreational purposes. Berners Bay region has a long
49 history of sporthunting as the Department of Fish and

50

1 Game has done an admirable job in managing the herd and
2 administering limited drawing permits. Hundreds of
3 resident sporthunters look forward each year in
4 applying for this hunt. A limited number of permits
5 are issued to the lucky few successful applicants. The
6 demand/interest for Berners Bay from all applicants is
7 far greater than the limited number of available moose
8 in the Berners Bay drainages as indicated by population
9 data and harvest history. Due to the small size of the
10 population and habitat it is unlikely it could support
11 additional harvest pressure.

12
13 There are other moose populations in
14 Southeast Alaska, Haines, St. James Bay, Gustavus, Taku
15 River and Stikine River just to name a few. These
16 moose are indigenous to these areas unlike Berners Bay.

17
18 It is interesting that Proposal WP18-11
19 was made by a person from the Gustavus area where there
20 is a natural moose population right outside his front
21 door which is an open hunt.

22
23 I oppose any Federal takeover of any
24 fish and wildlife management in Alaska and I oppose
25 Proposal WP18-11 to have the Federal government
26 administer a subsistence hunt in the Berners Bay
27 drainages, which has a limited amount of harvestable
28 moose. Alaska Department of Fish and Game should
29 continue the management of this area.

30
31 Sincerely,

32
33 Mike, again, from Fritz Cove in Juneau.

34
35 And I would like to ask, if I may, Mr.
36 Chair, Ed Buyarski, you also gave us a written public
37 comment, would you like me to read that into the record
38 or your previous testimony, is that sufficient.

39
40 MR. BUYARSKI: The previous testimony
41 is sufficient and I should say that my address is 17300
42 Andreanof Drive in Juneau.

43
44 MS. PERRY: Thank you.

45
46 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

47
48 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Ms. Perry.
49 Okay, now we're going to go to public testimony, if
50

1 there's anyone on line, on the phone line, go ahead and
2 state your name for the record and we'll try to get you
3 one at a time.

4

5 MR. ORSY: Joe Orsy (ph)

6

7 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay, say that again.

8

9 MR. ORSY: Yeah, my name is Joe Orsy.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay, go ahead, Joe.

12

13 MR. ORSY: Yeah, hi, good morning
14 everybody. I live at 15356 Glacier Highway, some 30
15 miles south of Berners Bay and I would like to testify
16 in opposition to WP18-11 to preferential access to
17 moose hunting in Berners Bay. I think the current draw
18 permit treats everybody equally.

19

20 Back in 2005 my son, Nick, was lucky
21 enough to draw a permit and successfully harvested a
22 bull in Berners Bay and I think it's a good opportunity
23 for youth to get involved hunting here in Juneau and
24 his grandfather, Glenn Milke, used to hunt there I
25 think in the '60s and '70s, so you got a third
26 generation Alaskan that's been able to hunt and it
27 would be a shame if that disappeared because of some
28 preferential use based on rural designation which at
29 the time when Glenn was a boy here in Juneau it was
30 probably rural anyway.

31

32 So anyway I just appreciate the
33 opportunity to testify and hope that that information
34 makes a difference.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you. Appreciate
39 your testimony.

40

41 Is there anyone else on line that wants
42 to speak to the proposal.

43

44 MR. CASIPIT: This is Calvin Casipit.
45 I'm the proponent, I'd like to speak if I can.

46

47 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay. You're a little
48 broken, Cal, could you speak up a little bit.

49

50

1 Go ahead.

2

3 MR. CASIPIT: This is Calvin Casipit.
4 I'm a (indiscernible - phone cutting in and out and
5 warbled).

6

7 CHAIRMAN BANGS: We're having a tough
8 time hearing you, it's not coming through very clear.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Are you still there
13 Cal.

14

15 MR. CASIPIT: Yeah, I'm here, is this
16 better?

17

18 CHAIRMAN BANGS: That's much better.

19

20 MR. CASIPIT: Okay. If everybody's
21 done I just wanted to speak now and just talk about my
22 proposal here.

23

24 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Well, if you can make
25 it brief, but go ahead. I don't know if there's anyone
26 else.

27

28 MR. CASIPIT: Well, I will make it as
29 brief as possible.

30

31 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Go ahead.

32

33 MR. CASIPIT: You know, I feel like
34 I've listened to everybody else respectfully and I
35 think everybody should be able to respectfully listen
36 to me.

37

38 Like I said I was the proponent of this
39 proposal. It is dealing with moose in 1C,
40 specifically, Berners Bay. I think a lot of the
41 questions from the Council that came early on after the
42 Staff analysis was spoken about into the record, I
43 wanted to talk to some of those questions and some of
44 those concerns first and, you know, kind of put it in
45 bigger perspective here.

46

47 First of all, I think in Southeast
48 Alaska the demand for moose is way more, way more than
49 the moose that is available. In the rural communities

50

1 alone the demand is way more than moose is available,
2 and that is Southeast wide. And then you look at our
3 regulations and you look at the way our C&Ts are
4 written and they're all over the board. You have a C&T
5 for Yakutat that's very specific to Yakutat residents,
6 you have a C&T determination for Unit 1C that's
7 basically all of Southeast Alaska, including Yakutat,
8 you got our C&T for Petersburg, Unit 1B and 3 that's --
9 I mean there is no consistency in the way the C&Ts are
10 applied. In fact, I think the C&Ts for moose in
11 Southeast as a whole have confused .804 restrictions
12 with C&T. And, first of all the C&T regulations came
13 from the State system, that was something that was put
14 into the Federal regulations from the State system,
15 .804 actually comes through ANILCA, the Section .804
16 analysis comes from ANILCA, we should really be looking
17 at .804 analysis throughout Southeast Alaska for moose.

18
19 That's the key here, I think.
20

21 Because there is way more demand for
22 moose from the rural areas in all of Southeast that can
23 even be provided and we're not even talking about the
24 urban communities right now and people from out of
25 state.

26
27 I think somebody mentioned, you know,
28 one commenter mentioned, well, you know, the people in
29 Gustavus, they can just go out in their backyard and
30 shoot a moose. No, we can't. We're under a spike-
31 fork-50 harvest strategy over here thanks to some
32 really bad decisionmaking on the part of the Board of
33 Game a few years ago.

34
35 It's just -- to compare the opportunity
36 that we have in Gustavus with what goes on and other
37 areas of Southeast where there aren't antler
38 restrictions are -- there is no comparison.

39
40 The target for the Gustavus area this
41 year was 12 bulls. We only shot 9. Didn't even meet
42 the target because just the weather was terrible. I
43 watched the same bulls over and over and over the whole
44 season long from -- that weren't legal.

45
46 So anyway but that's -- I'm probably
47 getting off the point here but I just wanted to make
48 that point that I don't think there should be any non-
49 subsistence hunting of moose anywhere in Southeast

50

1 Alaska.

2

3 Anyway the point here is the ANILCA
4 Title VIII and the positive priority that has to be
5 provided to rural residents on the Federal public lands
6 in Alaska, the last I checked the Tongass National
7 Forest is part of the Federal public lands of Alaska.
8 As far as I can see there is no priority being provided
9 for moose for rural residents in Berners Bay and
10 especially Berners Bay and I would say in other areas
11 of Southeast as well, 1C in particular, remainder, that
12 something has to be done.

13

14 Now, I realize that I asked for three
15 things, any of those three things would satisfy me that
16 I asked for. Any of those three things would satisfy
17 me.

18

19 My point is is that we have to begin a
20 conversation about moose in Southeast Alaska and how
21 they're being shared and how they're being harvested
22 and we need to take a better look at the way our C&Ts
23 are set up and the way the .804 analysis process is
24 done because -- or else this is going to become the
25 rule, this issue of, you know, Juneau residents being
26 pissed off about other people coming into their, quote,
27 backyard. People have been coming in the backyard of
28 rural Alaska for a long time now and making it harder
29 for us to get our resources from our own backyard.

30

31 So, anyway, I guess that's all I have.
32 I had more stuff I wanted to talk about some of the
33 other public comments that were made but I'm just going
34 to let them go.

35

36 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you for your
37 testimony, Cal. I think we have a question for you.

38

39 Dr. Schroeder.

40

41 MR. SCHROEDER: Cal, this is Bob
42 Schroeder. It's good to hear your voice again.

43

44 I'm a little confused, in our proposal
45 book, have you looked through the Staff analysis.

46

47 MR. CASIPIT: Oh, yeah, I read through
48 it, uh-huh.

49

50

1 MR. SCHROEDER: I'm a little unclear in
2 that I can read what you submitted and the Staff did
3 some -- did the Staff discuss with you the drawing
4 permit and the specific language that is in the
5 proposed regulation that we're dealing with. I'm a
6 little confused because you just said that any of the
7 three things that you suggested would satisfy you and
8 none of those three things talks about a drawing
9 permit.

10
11 MR. CASIPIT: I've had no contact from
12 Federal Staff on either this proposal, 18-11 or 18-12,
13 I've had no contact with Federal Staff at all, other
14 than my comments -- other than my calls to the
15 coordinator to basically call into this meeting.

16
17 MR. SCHROEDER: So, you, specifically,
18 were not proposing one antlerless -- the proposals are
19 one bull by Federal drawing permit with a date, and the
20 second part of that is one antlerless moose by Federal
21 drawing permit if needed. So I'm having trouble
22 figuring out where the proposed regulation came from
23 because it doesn't seem to be very closely tied to the
24 proposal that you submitted.

25
26 MR. CASIPIT: Well, through the Chair,
27 Mr. Schroeder. Like I said, I haven't had no
28 communication with Federal Staff since I submitted
29 these proposals, other than with the coordinator for,
30 you know, trying to call into this meeting.

31
32 Where that language came from, I don't
33 know.

34
35 But let me back up a little bit.

36
37 You know, I think in the past the
38 Council has put proposals into the hopper to begin a
39 discussion with the public about how we should approach
40 an issue. I think it's been done with Unit 2 deer,
41 it's been done with lots of other species around where,
42 you know, the Council puts in a proposal to begin a
43 discussion about how we're going to solve a problem.

44
45 I've identified a problem.

46
47 I wasn't sure how to get it addressed.

48
49 I submitted a proposal to begin a
50

1 discussion or to start a discussion, to come to some --
2 to see if there's some sort of common ground that we
3 can solve this issue, not just for Berners Bay, but
4 Southeast-wide, the entire Southeast region. I think I
5 talked about some of the issues that I see as a
6 problem. This problem of conflating .804 and C&T, this
7 problem of having wide C&T in one place, narrow C&T in
8 the other. I think there are some ways we can address
9 this and maybe still allow, you know, some use for
10 Juneau's backyard, if you will, but there has to be
11 something done to solve the issue in the rural areas
12 around these rural communities as well.

13
14 And, you know, I want to start a
15 discussion. I want to have an adult discussion about
16 what needs to be done about moose in Southeast Alaska
17 because I don't think anybody on the Council would
18 disagree with me, that there's way more demand for
19 moose in Southeast Alaska than there are moose, and
20 that's just the rural areas, and that doesn't include
21 the urban areas, the non-rural areas, I should say.

22
23 So let's begin a discussion.

24
25 MR. SCHROEDER: All right, just a final
26 followup, Cal, as you may know the Council has been
27 working very hard on figuring out a C&T procedure and a
28 recognition of rural subsistence use that is more
29 consistent with the language and intent of ANILCA. In
30 this meeting we supported a proposal to revise C&T
31 determinations for deer and I believe it's the
32 intention, at least, of Council members that I've
33 spoken to, to work on a better C&T process for all
34 species in Southeast Alaska. This will take time. And
35 we also believe that Section .804 is the appropriate
36 way to discriminate among subsistence users rather than
37 a C&T process.

38
39 But with that in mind, I'm wondering
40 how you'd like us to proceed with your proposal since
41 this is the first time you've spoken to either the
42 Council on this, and you've had no other communication
43 with Staff. In other words, do you strongly support
44 the proposed regulation for a drawing permit hunt for
45 bulls, a drawing permit hunt for cows, if needed, and,
46 please, the first part is more of a commentary, the
47 second part is, is that your proposal, is that the
48 proposal that you'd like us to act on, is the drawing
49 permit.

50

1 MR. CASIPIT: Well, that certainly
2 provides for a priority and that's what I asked for.

3
4 Now, if that's the -- I mean that's all
5 I was asking for is a priority for Federal users and if
6 that -- to me that provides that priority but it's kind
7 of up to the Council whether you guys think that's a
8 reasonable priority or not, you know, I'm okay with the
9 preliminary conclusion the way it came out, all I'm
10 saying is that any of those three things could have
11 made me happy, would have satisfied me, including, you
12 know, the Board saying why there's no priority there,
13 although I don't see how they would do it, bigger legal
14 minds than me would have to work on that.

15
16 But I'm okay with the way the
17 preliminary conclusion came out in the analysis, it's
18 just that I really had no discussion with anybody on
19 this.

20
21 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Cal. Thank
22 you, Dr. Schroeder.

23
24 Is there any more questions for Cal.

25
26 (No comments)

27
28 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Well, thank you for
29 your time, Cal. We're going to go at this here and try
30 it. I think there's a lot of discussion to be had
31 before we make any move on this and we're running low
32 on time. We're really -- there's going to be a time
33 crunch coming up here pretty soon. But we need to take
34 a little break here.

35
36 If there's no more public testimony
37 we'll do an at ease for 10 minutes.

38
39 (Off record)

40
41 (On record)

42
43 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay, we're going to
44 move into the Council's deliberations.

45
46 (Radio interference on teleconference
47 line - phones not muted)

48
49 MR. DOUVILLE: I have a question first.

50

1 Maybe somebody could answer this. I would like to know
2 how .804 applies to introduced species.

3
4 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Ms. Hardin.

5
6 MS. HARDIN: Through the Chair. Thank
7 you for the question. For the record my name is
8 Jennifer Hardin, I'm the subsistence policy coordinator
9 for OSM.

10
11 Mr. Douville, if your question is in
12 relation to the prioritization of subsistence users --
13 first I need to have a clarification. Are you asking
14 how Section .804 prioritization of subsistence users
15 applies to introduced species or how the Federal
16 priority that's established in Section .804 of Title
17 VIII ANILCA applies to introduced species.

18
19 I can answer both if you'd like.

20
21 (Laughter)

22
23 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Go ahead.

24
25 MS. HARDIN: The Board does not
26 differentiate between introduced species and native
27 species. The priority on Federal public lands for
28 Federally-qualified subsistence users and subsistence
29 applies whether it's for introduced species or not.

30
31 On Federal public lands the subsistence
32 priority provided in Title VIII of ANILCA applies
33 regardless of whether the species has been introduced
34 or not.

35
36 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you. Dr.
37 Schroeder.

38
39 MR. SCHROEDER: Thank you, through the
40 Chair. Just while we have you in the hot seat there.

41
42 My reading, and you don't have to
43 necessarily answer this unless there's a definitive
44 answer, my reading of ANILCA is that drawing hunts
45 don't really figure in. I believe that that would be
46 pretty much new territory for the Federal Subsistence
47 Board and my reading of ANILCA is if there is a very
48 limited resource then Section .804 procedures apply,
49 unless the Board could make some very convincing reason

50

1 why it would not follow .804, which is the law.

2

3 And in any case if you could comment on
4 that briefly.

5

6 MS. HARDIN: Through the Chair. Thank
7 you, Mr. Schroeder.

8

9 So for the Federal Subsistence
10 priority, can be achieved through a number of avenues.

11

12 We often talk about in the Federal
13 Program about the stepped prioritization approach. So
14 when resources are abundant, and I think we've talked
15 about this before, when resources are abundant anyone
16 can hunt on Federal public lands, there's no
17 differentiation. When there's not enough to go around
18 then the Federal priority kicks in and Federally-
19 qualified subsistence users are to have priority on
20 Federal public lands.

21

22 You can -- the first step could be a
23 closure to non-subsistence uses. Which means that only
24 Federally-qualified subsistence users could hunt or
25 fish for that species.

26

27 The second step would be prioritizing
28 among Federally-qualified subsistence users, and I
29 believe that's what you're referring to when you talk
30 about .804.

31

32 And then the third step would be a
33 closure to all users and uses.

34

35 The drawing permit approach, because it
36 is equally, there are equal chances of a Federally-
37 qualified subsistence user receiving that permit has
38 been applied in limited cases. If this Council would
39 prefer -- if this Council is interested in a Section
40 .804 subsistence user prioritization in association
41 with this proposal, you have the ability to recommend
42 that as part of your decisionmaking process today.

43

44 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Followup.

45

46 MR. SCHROEDER: Just to keep things
47 rolling along since we have a Federal Program
48 representative on the stand, is it usual process when a
49 proposal comes in to clarify the intent and meaning of

50

1 the proposal with the proponent. We heard from Mr.
2 Casipit that he had no communication with the Federal
3 Program except for signing up for testimony today.

4
5 MS. HARDIN: Through the Chair. It's
6 not unusual, it doesn't always occur.

7
8 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you.

9
10 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.

11
12 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Patty.

13
14 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman
15 Bangs.

16
17 When you talked about a limited
18 resource and then the three options and then in some
19 cases -- in some limited cases there's drawing and then
20 we've also heard that in some areas stakeholders have
21 come together to find a way to make it work for
22 qualified and non-Federally-qualified, and that drawing
23 can -- can a drawing fall within that, where here we
24 have a limited case so -- but we want to provide the
25 opportunity for Federally-qualified but we also want to
26 provide an opportunity to non-Federally of Juneau, for
27 instance, is there a way to do that?

28
29 MS. HARDIN: Through the Chair. I'm
30 not sure that I'm going to be able to answer your
31 question sufficiently.

32
33 The OSM preliminary conclusion suggests
34 a modification to close to non-Federally-qualified
35 subsistence users so that the hunt would only be
36 available for people who are Federally-qualified
37 subsistence users, and that's because that is generally
38 the first step that we would take in a situation when
39 there are not enough resources to go around. So unless
40 Staff wants to add to this, I would say that, again,
41 you all have the ability to take whatever motion you
42 deem is the most appropriate for this situation.

43
44 The drawing -- my understanding, and
45 I'm going to ask Terry to help me out here but my
46 understanding is that there's currently a State drawing
47 permit which is open to Federally-qualified subsistence
48 users as well as non-Federally-qualified, and so that
49 is the current system that is in place. That doesn't
50

1 provide for a priority for Federally-qualified
2 subsistence users.

3
4 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Cathy.

5
6 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
7 This might be a better question for the State. But if
8 the Federal lands are closed except for by Federally-
9 qualified subsistence users, my understanding is then
10 that State draw permit would go away and then how would
11 the actual moose population be managed from that point
12 forward, would that fall under the jurisdiction of the
13 Federal government.

14
15 Mr. Scott.

16
17 MR. SCOTT: Through the Chair. Member
18 Needham. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on
19 this proposal, and I've asked Stephanie Sell to come up
20 as well as the local area management biologist.

21
22 We've heard a lot about Berners Bay
23 this morning and various uses and timelines and where
24 the calves came from, Matanuska Valley, by the way, I
25 want to give you a little bit more recent history and
26 I'll do it very quickly, I understand we're on a time
27 crunch.

28
29 In 2006 the Department was awarded a
30 grant through the Department of Transportation, the
31 State Department of Transportation to look at a travel
32 corridor up through Berners Bay with the intent to run
33 up to the Katzin River adjacent to the Haines area, and
34 in part of that we were charged with going and learning
35 as much as we possibly could about the wildlife
36 resources in Berners Bay. And part of that was
37 extensive moose research work. So beginning in 2006 we
38 started to maintain a sample of collared moose in each
39 of the drainages, there's four river drainages in
40 there, and we determined things like sightability, so
41 we can fly around and instead of having a minimum
42 number of moose we can actually estimate the number of
43 moose that are in the Bay now. We also looked at
44 survival. We marked female moose primarily and we
45 followed them around for multiple years and we do a
46 calf survey in the spring and figure out who had calves
47 and we'd do it again in the spring and see how many
48 lived the first two or three weeks and then we'd do it
49 in the fall and see how many calves made it through

50

1 that. There's an eight week or so bottleneck there, if
2 they make it through that they're in pretty good shape.

3
4 We have learned an exhaustive amount
5 about Berners Bay and we continue, to this day, while
6 the primary research project is done, we continue to
7 maintain a sample of collared moose in the Bay to
8 provide opportunity for every Alaskan, not just Juneau
9 people. Our job and our mandate is to the resource in
10 Berners Bay. Frankly it doesn't matter to us that they
11 were put there in 1958 and 1960, they're there, they're
12 a resource that every Alaskan has the opportunity to
13 use. Our job is to go out and manage them.

14
15 So that's just to give you a little bit
16 of background. And we're waiting on snow and we'll
17 back in Berners Bay again.

18
19 We've also done quite a bit of
20 vegetation work and habitat analysis in the area.

21
22 Other species we were able to learn a
23 whole lot about include brown bear, wolverine, wolves,
24 some other things like that, goats.

25
26 So from a regional supervisor
27 perspective, you know, you ask the question, how will
28 we manage Berners Bay. You know it's a tough question.
29 Because our mandate is to the resource for every
30 Alaskan. And at the same time we're in a difficult
31 time period where money is not all that readily
32 available to us and so I don't know how to answer to
33 that, you know, specifically. We take our jobs very
34 seriously for the resource and all user groups of the
35 resource, but if we're not -- you know, it does ask the
36 question, you know, and I'm not going to answer my own
37 question but it does ask the question, you know, can we
38 utilize even the same amount of resources, financial
39 resources there, if we're not necessarily managing the
40 hunt.

41
42 I would add to that, beginning in '06,
43 that was the year, we probably all remember it, and we
44 had a wonderful snow year, it was huge, and Ms.
45 Phillips may remember the impacts to the deer
46 population, Berners Bay was susceptible to that, too,
47 we estimated we lost half of the moose in one -- in
48 just a few months and we closed it for many -- for
49 several years there and then have just recently opened

50

1 it. But it was because of that intensive research and
2 management work we were able to monitor the decline and
3 then as soon as it was able, we were able to put it
4 back on the table and make it available to all the
5 Alaskans.

6
7 I guess that's -- the final one is that
8 it is a small population and Ms. Sell would be able to
9 provide the most recent population estimate there but
10 it should not, just on basic moose biology, should not
11 be managed as a registration hunt. Sometimes it's very
12 difficult to control those and that's why it's always
13 been very limited. It started out as a registration
14 hunt and went to a drawing hunt pretty early on in its
15 history and you heard testimony earlier that the number
16 of permits have ranged from 20 to five or, you know,
17 whatever it has been, but, you know, a drawing permit
18 approach and strategy to this population is the
19 appropriate methodology.

20
21 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you.

22
23 Mr. Hernandez.

24
25 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you. In all your
26 exhaustive research there have you done any DNA
27 analysis on those moose, I'm curious to know if they've
28 remained a distinct population with only Matanuska
29 Valley DNA?

30
31 MR. SCOTT: Through the Chair. Member
32 Hernandez. We do. Yeah, we definitely collect ear
33 punches and blood and at times harvested materials.
34 They are still the same moose, the Matanuska moose.

35
36 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you.

37
38 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Is there any other
39 questions for the Staff before we -- Albert.

40
41 MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
42 guess the question is what is the draw process, as an
43 example, if Albert wants to get on the list to draw a
44 tag, what pool does that throw me into as a rural or
45 non-rural, is there two different categories in the
46 draw process?

47
48 MR. SCOTT: Through the Chair. Member
49 Howard. There isn't two different categories. It's
50

1 everybody has a -- it's a random drawing and it's an
2 equal probability of, you know, to be drawn.

3

4 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Patty.

7

8 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
9 have two questions, unrelated in a way.

10

11 But trying to get back to can we make
12 this work through a drawing process that allows this,
13 you know, allows Federally-qualified an opportunity
14 within a drawing process, and allows Juneau to be a
15 part of that drawing also and how would that work. I
16 mean I hear a lot -- and I don't mean to offend anyone,
17 I hear a lot, don't do this to us, well, how do we make
18 it work. So is there a way to do that and if there is,
19 what is that way?

20

21 MR. SCOTT: Through the Chair. Member
22 Phillips. I think we're going to need some time,
23 frankly, to look into, you know, to see what the
24 options may or may not be. At one point the very
25 concept that you mentioned has been discussed but, you
26 know, that's beyond -- I mean it was just -- it didn't
27 go beyond that, it's like, gosh, you know, what do we
28 do if this comes up. So we would need some time, on
29 the State side and certainly working with OSM as well,
30 as well as the RAC and keep you updated on how that
31 would proceed.

32

33 I think there's potential there, for
34 sure, I just don't know how it'd work as far as, gosh,
35 I mean do we separate the system and, you know, I don't
36 think the State's system is set up to differentiate
37 between rural and non-rural, it's -- there's a lot of
38 unanswered questions.

39

40 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Followup, Patty, and
41 then Mike.

42

43 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you. I have an
44 unrelated question so you should let Mike go or should
45 I just go with it.

46

47 CHAIRMAN BANGS: It's not a followup --
48 go ahead, Patty.

49

50

1 MS. PHILLIPS: So I brought it up
2 earlier on this non-rural area, so what is the non-
3 rural policy and procedures?
4

5 MS. HARDIN: Through the Chair. Thank
6 you, Ms. Phillips.
7

8 You all may remember that, I believe in
9 January of 2017, the Federal Subsistence Board adopted
10 a new policy to address the question of non-rural and
11 rural communities in the Federal Subsistence Management
12 Program. Based on that policy, the Board has just
13 issued a list of non-rural areas and everything else in
14 the state is considered rural. Also as part of that
15 policy there will be a -- every two years there'll be a
16 call for proposals to -- for proposals to change the
17 status of the non-rural or rural status of communities.
18 The first call for that proposal should -- that call
19 for proposal should take place in January of 2018 at
20 the same time as the Federal subsistence fisheries call
21 for proposals.
22

23 And so there is more information
24 available on our website about the non-rural policy and
25 we can provide copies to you all if you don't have it
26 handy, or anyone else, but to answer your question that
27 call for proposals to change the status or to address
28 the non-rural or rural status of communities in the
29 Federal Subsistence Management Program would be in
30 January of 2018.
31

32 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Patty.
33

34 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
35

36 Would that include modifying a boundary
37 of a non-rural area?
38

39 MS. HARDIN: Through the Chair. Yes,
40 Ms. Phillips, the proposal can be to modify existing
41 areas or to establish new non-rural areas but there is
42 a number of guidelines that are available for people
43 who are interested in submitting those proposals and
44 without going too far into this, it will require
45 anybody who wants to change the status of the community
46 will be required to provide evidence to support that
47 change.
48

49 And so, for example, if you wanted to
50

1 change the status of a rural community to non-rural or
2 you wanted to propose that, the proponent would need to
3 demonstrate what has changed in the community that
4 would warrant a change in status.

5
6 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you. Mr.
7 Douville.

8
9 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
10 We are having some problems with this. I am. I
11 shouldn't say we.

12
13 There is a positive C&T.

14
15 We are obligated to provide a rural
16 priority. However that can take several forms and we
17 don't have those options in front of us and I think
18 it's unfair to make us sit here and try to come up with
19 them without the proper research and the -- to be fair
20 to all. You know, I think that we need to take a
21 couple of steps back or somebody needs to provide us
22 with those options so we could move forward.

23
24 I don't feel comfortable acting on this
25 modification either. That's not the best option, I
26 don't think. So how do we get there. I would like to
27 do this but it seems quite difficult for me to make a
28 decision.

29
30 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you.

31
32 Terry.

33
34 MR. SUMINSKI: Mr. Chairman. Or
35 through the Chair. Mr. Douville.

36
37 Given the situation we didn't really
38 have a whole lot of options to analyze, you know, and
39 that's -- you know we talked about a lot of these
40 different things that we're talking about now and the
41 analysis was pretty much -- took the only course that
42 we really thought was appropriate. But saying that,
43 that doesn't mean that you have to do anything that's
44 in this. If you have other ideas, you know, you know
45 -- I don't know how to say this exactly, but you have
46 more flexibility than we do when we lay out our
47 analysis. You know, you're considering other public
48 testimony, other ideas that may come up at this
49 meeting. When we do this analysis we're doing a good
50

1 faith effort to provide you with some information to
2 inform your decision. You're not constrained by what
3 we conclude by any means, and I think you know that.
4

5 But, I mean we were pretty limited
6 where we could go with this proposal.
7

8 Thank you.
9

10 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Terry.
11

12 Steve.
13

14 MR. REIFENSTUHL: It seems like we have
15 three options. We can pass it as is. I assume we can
16 table it, take no action and request, you know,
17 additional information from the users. Or we could, I
18 think, what Terry has said, and others, that we could
19 split the baby. I think that would be another option.
20 And maybe it's new territory but I think what Mr.
21 Suminski just said is that he's limited but we're not
22 so that would be something we could toy with.
23

24 One of the things that worries me is
25 that.....
26

27 CHAIRMAN BANGS: We just have a point
28 of order.
29

30 MR. REIFENSTUHL: Oh, I'm sorry.
31

32 CHAIRMAN BANGS: We're not
33 deliberating, we're addressing questions to them.
34

35 MR. REIFENSTUHL: Okay.
36

37 CHAIRMAN BANGS: And then when we're
38 done with the Staff then we'll either put it on the
39 table so if you could keep your questions to them that
40 would be very helpful.
41

42 Anyone else have questions for Staff
43 before we move along.
44

45 MR. SHARP: Mr. Chair.
46

47 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Who's this.
48

49 MR. SHARP: This is Dan Sharp with
50

1 Bureau of Land Management, could I have a moment.

2

3

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Yes.

4

5

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9

10 is a unique situation, I'd like to point out to the
11 Council Area 6 that has an introduced moose population
12 on the Copper River Flats. If you look at Page 41 of
13 the Federal regulations, you'll see how they split the
14 baby, so to speak. Just as an idea maybe how to
15 proceed.

16

17

18

Just a suggestion.

19

20

21

Thanks.

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23

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you for that.

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Mr. Howard.

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MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
question I was going to followup with the other
question on how do you get in the drawing. So getting
the answer to that, the next question would be, how
many non -- I mean how many rural residents have
applied and how many have drawn a ticket.

MR. SUMINSKI: Justin, are you on the
line, could you answer that please.

MR. KOLLER: Yes, I'm here. Mr.
Howard. Through the Chair. There have been very few
rural -- Federally-qualified subsistence users that
have applied for this hunt, however, as I stated the
number that do apply is higher than the number of moose
available. And each one of those Federally-qualified
subsistence users that enters the current draw system
has an equal chance as anybody else who applies to draw
a permit.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you. Are there
any other questions from the Council to Staff before we
move into the proposal.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Seeing none, thank you
for -- hopefully we'll be able to ask other questions
as they arise but thank you for clearing up some

1 issues.

2

3

What's the wish of the Council.

4

5

Cathy.

6

7

MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

8

9

I move to adopt Wildlife Proposal 18-11
10 with the modification recommended by OSM in the
11 preliminary conclusion that can be found on Page 241 in
12 our proposal book.

13

14

MR. YEAGER: Second.

15

16

17

CHAIRMAN BANGS: It's been moved to
17 adopt the proposal as modified by OSM by Ms. Needham
18 and seconded by Mr. Yeager.

19

20

Discussion.

21

22

(No comments)

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CHAIRMAN BANGS: I'd like to throw a
few things that we've discussed a little bit about and
maybe we could come up with some ideas of ways that we
feel would be a fair way to deal with this such as
splitting the permits, doing a couple different things
and then deferring the proposal until later when we get
more information back from Staff on what we can do and
what the consequences and outcome would be.

32

33

Just my thought.

34

35

Mr. Schroeder.

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MR. SCHROEDER: Gosh I really have a
whole bunch of things to say on this proposal and I'll
do them sequentially so that -- the first thing that
I'd address would be I don't really see that the
proposed regulation maps very closely on what the
proponent requested. The proponent requested any of
one of three things in the proposal that was submitted
and Staff somehow worked that out to be that what
should take place is a drawing permit and I don't see
how that is really connected.

47

48

49

And then I'm really disturbed that
there was no communication between Staff and the

50

1 proponent to hone down what that means. That would
2 take a few phone calls and it wouldn't take us spending
3 hours and hours on a proposal trying to figure out what
4 the proponent wanted and then what we may want to do.
5 So that would be the first thing that I'd establish.

6
7 And I simply can't get from the
8 proposal as written to a drawing permit hunt.

9
10 And just to come out with a second item
11 on my list is we do provide a -- we're charged with
12 providing a priority for subsistence, but we don't
13 provide a priority for subsistence just willy-nilly, we
14 do it if there's a demonstrated shortage such that all
15 users cannot be accommodated. I don't really know that
16 that is specifically proven with respect to Berners Bay
17 moose. The proponent in his testimony said that all
18 moose in Southeast Alaska should be -- should receive a
19 subsistence priority implying that there should be no
20 other moose hunting. That isn't before us right now
21 but that would be -- from my point of view it would be
22 stretching the idea of shortage. Shortage, to me,
23 would not mean that everyone who dreams of getting a
24 moose should get a moose. That just isn't the way our
25 natural world works.

26
27 So those would just be my first two
28 shots on this proposal.

29
30 Thank you.

31
32 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Mr.
33 Schroeder.

34
35 Any other discussion.

36
37 (No comments)

38
39 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Well, I'm at a loss
40 for exactly what to do and I don't want to -- I'm not
41 in favor of the proposal as written. I just don't
42 think that's the fair thing to do and I think we need
43 to make sure that we give a Federal priority for
44 qualified users but I just don't think that this is the
45 way to do it and that's why I think that I would like
46 to see some other ideas come out that we could defer
47 the proposal and then get more information back from
48 the options that Staff could offer us to be more fair.

1 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.

2
3 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Patty.

4
5 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you.

6
7 ANILCA is not a policy to exclude all
8 other users from Berners Bay, that is traditionally a
9 Juneau hunt area. The Program is to adequately provide
10 for preference on an ongoing basis. And, you know,
11 we've talked about -- there's been some behind the
12 scenes discussions about, you know, can we do like we
13 do in other areas, you know, a one week Federally-
14 qualified harvesters in Berners Bay and then the
15 remaining time open to all other harvesters. So -- or
16 there was talk about a percentage of the drawing be
17 allocated for Federally-qualified and then the rest are
18 all others.

19
20 I think the resource is limited enough
21 that it should be Alaskan residents only. And the
22 Cordova example provided by BLM talks about a Federal
23 drawing permit, is there a way to work within the State
24 drawing permit or, you know, I -- or can a percentage
25 of the permits be Federally-qualified permits and then
26 the rest falls under the State drawing permit, I don't
27 know, there's a lot of questions and unknown answers.

28
29 So that's my remarks.

30
31 Thank you.

32
33 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Patty.

34
35 Don.

36
37 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
38 Chairman.

39
40 My opinion, we heard from the Staff
41 that they feel that they're pretty constrained in what
42 they are able to recommend to us so I don't see
43 deferring for more Staff analysis is necessarily very
44 helpful. I think the ball's kind of in our court, I
45 think we should make a suggestion on our own and let
46 the Board consider that, as difficult as that might be,
47 I think it's kind of -- we're kind of obligated at this
48 point as -- we might also take note that similar
49 proposals have been deferred over the years and
50

1 obviously somebody is not willing to just let that go
2 on so I think we should try and at least make a
3 recommendation that we would like to see and let them
4 analyze that rather than just asking them to reanalyze
5 what they've already analyzed.

6
7 So that's my opinion.

8
9 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Well, I think there's
10 the unanswered questions that Patty brought up and that
11 I feel are possibly -- could work, but I don't know if
12 it's legal. I don't know if we're able to split the
13 permits. The State isn't necessarily going to be able
14 to just turn over half the permits to a Federal only
15 draw but I think there might be a way like Mr. Scott
16 said, that it's going to take time for them to figure
17 that out and I'm just wondering if we could go ahead
18 and make that recommendation and then let them figure
19 it out.

20
21 Is that what you're getting at Don, go
22 ahead.

23
24 MR. HERNANDEZ: Well, if I can Patty.

25
26 MS. PHILLIPS: Yes.

27
28 MR. HERNANDEZ: Well, Patty kind of
29 referenced what the gentleman from the BLM brought to
30 our attention and there's a little bit more than, you
31 know, than what Patty alluded to there, and essentially
32 what they've done in that area, 6C, is they have one
33 antlerless moose by Federal drawing permit, permits for
34 the portion of the antlerless moose season quota not
35 harvested in a specified time may be available for a
36 redistribution at a later time. So I think what
37 they're saying there is to provide the -- like we've
38 done in some other areas, Unuk River, specifically for
39 moose, but we also have it, you know, for deer, we have
40 essentially an early season, an early opportunity for
41 subsistence users. If the subsistence users in this
42 case do not harvest the quota then the remainder would
43 be available to all. And it might work in this case.
44 I don't know. It kind of -- the testimony we've had
45 really sounds like the ability to get there is a
46 limiting factor and if people are unable to get there
47 for the early season well there could quite possibly be
48 an opportunity later.

1 So I think it's worth, you know, a try,
2 something along those lines and see what the Board
3 thinks, if it should be enacted, see how it all works
4 out, maybe revisit it later.

5
6 I don't know, that's a suggestion.

7
8 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Don.

9
10 Any other -- Mr. Schroeder.

11
12 MR. SCHROEDER: I don't want to just
13 keep my microphone on permanently here but I do have
14 really strong feelings about this.

15
16 I am -- let's see a couple of things
17 here with respect to C&T. Earlier in this meeting we
18 passed a -- we supported a proposal to recognize
19 customary and traditional use of deer by all rural
20 residents in all units of Southeast Alaska and we had a
21 rationale for that. The rationale was that people
22 travel around, they hunt in their wife's community,
23 their son goes and visits friends who he plays
24 basketball with, people go to Kuwiks and lots of other
25 things and so there is use that is provided. I
26 anticipate that in the future that we would -- our
27 intention would be to review C&T findings for moose as
28 well.

29
30 I'm also having problems -- so I
31 believe that that is on, at least my future agenda, for
32 what our Council may take up.

33
34 I also don't believe that we provide a
35 subsistence priority simply because there is a C&T
36 finding. The priority applies when there is a shortage
37 of resources, such that non-subsistence and subsistence
38 uses cannot be provided for.

39
40 Now, obviously if you can only hunt
41 five moose and there are a thousand people who'd like
42 that moose, you could look at it from one point of view
43 and say, well, really, how can we produce a thousand
44 moose here, and I'm sure if it's a sure bet for our
45 subsistence users, if it was only subsistence users
46 putting into a drawing, they'd think, gosh, that's a
47 sure moose, maybe we'd have hundreds of subsistence
48 users qualified putting in. However, I don't believe
49 that that is the intent of ANILCA, broadly put. And
50

1 perhaps we'd look at what actual use has taken place in
2 Berners Bay.

3
4 So to summarize that, my reading of
5 ANILCA is that it does not automatically call for a
6 priority. The priority kicks in when there's a
7 shortage, it's usually a hard fought battle to
8 establish that as we found in providing special
9 provisions for subsistence hunters in Unit 2 and other
10 places in our region. The subsistence priority for
11 moose in Yakutat is well established and it appears to
12 be fair to the participants. And I'll point out that
13 the priority for local users preexisted the Federal
14 Program. So I do not believe that we have to jump and
15 allocate some of the five moose that may be harvested
16 this coming year in Berners Bay to -- exclusively to
17 subsistence users.

18
19 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Bob.

20
21 Mr. Howard.

22
23 MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
24 What I appreciate about the gentleman's comments on the
25 phone is he referenced ANILCA, .804. That means he did
26 he his homework. That means he understood why we are
27 sitting here at the table. This gives us clear
28 direction. There's nothing -- this type of debate has
29 happened when .804 and ANILCA was created.

30
31 I listen to elders at home, some of
32 them are mad about ANILCA, we gave up a lot as Natives.
33 A lot was given up through this process. But we have
34 recognized that there was non-Natives in our community
35 and so we included them and it became a resident issue.
36 It's not Native, non-Native now, it's rural and non-
37 rural. That's to get rid of the hard feelings you see
38 in Oregon and Washington. There isn't that here in
39 Alaska. But you have to understand why this was
40 created. It was created because the economy in the
41 rural communities, you know, I'll give you an example,
42 Angoon's 80 percent unemployed, a lot of this isn't
43 subsistence, it's our traditional way of life. It's
44 something my dad has taught me, I have taught my son.
45 I'll give you another example, my son took a hunter
46 safety class, he was in a debate with the Trooper over
47 that because the Trooper's telling him to shoot it
48 through the heart, we grew up shooting them at the base
49 of the head because everything else we take home.

50

1 Everything else we make use of.

2

3 So we have clear direction on what we
4 have to do and you have to understand there's a
5 difference.

6

7 A lot of people like to use subsistence
8 now because it's become popular on TV.

9

10 If you look at the definition of
11 subsistence in the Webster Dictionary I don't agree
12 with it. It's to sustain your life at a minimum. I
13 don't know anyone in this room that lives to that
14 standard.

15

16 Angoon has created a traditional foods
17 council to address our subsistence, what's recognized
18 as subsistence. To me, subsistence was added to
19 regulate what we do on a daily basis. There's a
20 difference. I have to understand this because it's how
21 I live in the small community, I have to. I have no
22 choice because there's always somebody coming in and
23 trying to change the way it's always been done for us.
24 An example, Mr. Wagner, they've always had eulachon,
25 he's always been able to get it and then a regulation
26 changed and now he isn't able to do that. So I'm
27 charged with the responsibility as the president of our
28 tribe at home to pay attention. I suggest you guys read
29 ANILCA and meet us halfway as a board, we understand.
30 We don't want to take this away from you but there's
31 Federal guidelines that we're bound by that were put in
32 place for a reason. Everything has a reason.

33

34 It's almost like if I come into your
35 home here in Juneau and say you can no longer have pork
36 chops, you can no longer have chicken, if you don't
37 like pork chops. You have to look at it from the rural
38 point of view. If you don't get a moose, you get a
39 deer, if you can't 'get a deer you get a seal. A lot
40 of these fall into ANILCA. And the elders saw that we
41 need to protect our ability to take care of ourselves,
42 it's human nature to want to take care of your family
43 on your own. I don't want to stand here with my hand
44 out. I don't. So by not being able to do that, I'm
45 able to go out and hunt for myself, fish for myself.

46

47 I'm dead set against the Welfare
48 system.

49

50

1 So you have to consider this is what
2 we're charged with, to ensure these rights that are put
3 in the books are maintained and exist for generations
4 as intended.

5
6 I agree with Mr. Chair that maybe
7 splitting it might be the way to go instead of --
8 otherwise we have to close it because both sides say
9 there's a conservation concern. If you're listening,
10 both sides says this is such a small herd of moose,
11 that's defined as a conservation concern, in my mind.

12
13 So this is an opportunity and we have
14 to be really careful of how we do this because once we
15 do, we're opening the door to a lot of different things
16 so it has to be done right.

17
18 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

19
20 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Albert.

21
22 So what's the wish of the Council here,
23 what are we going to do?

24
25 (Laughter)

26
27 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay. Okay, Mr.
28 Douville.

29
30 Any other comments.

31
32 (No comments)

33
34 CHAIRMAN BANGS: I think we need to
35 take a little recess before we break for lunch so let's
36 take a quick five minute break and then we'll come back
37 and figure out what we're going to do and then
38 hopefully we can get it done before lunch.

39
40 Somebody had suggested ordering pizza
41 and staying here.

42
43 (Laughter)

44
45 (Off record)

46
47 (On record)

48
49 (Radio interference on teleconference)

50

1 line - phones not muted)

2

3 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Please take your
4 seats.

5

6 (Pause)

7

8 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay, we'll come back
9 to order here.

10

11 Any discussion.

12

13 Patty.

14

15 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

16

17 I want to bring a couple options.

18

19 One option is to take no action and
20 leave it all the same.

21

22 The other option I looked at with a
23 couple other RAC members is without changing the
24 existing State draw permit process, those that are
25 Federally-qualified that draw a permit have the option
26 of harvesting in a week early season. And after that
27 one week is over, all permits would be able to harvest
28 in the remaining season in an attempt to establish a
29 rural priority.

30

31 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

32

33 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you for that
34 Patty.

35

36 Cathy.

37

38 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

39

40 Before we move forward on the second
41 option, which I think is a great idea and would provide
42 a Federal subsistence opportunity, I would have a
43 question about how that would work under the State
44 management system because it would be their State draw
45 permit and I'm not positive that they would be able to
46 give that timeframe for Federally -- that week leeway
47 for Federally-qualified users, specifically.

48

49 Mr. Douville.....

50

1 (Laughter)

2

3 MS. NEEDHAM:or -- thank you.

4

5 (Laughter)

6

7 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Maybe Mr. Scott could
8 answer that for us.

9

10 MR. SCOTT: Through the Chair. Member
11 Needham.

12

13 I want to make sure I understand the
14 question. I apologize we had some other wildlife
15 issues pop up here just in the last few minutes and
16 maybe I could ask you to restate the question.

17

18 MS. NEEDHAM: Okay. Patty had an
19 alternative recommendation that might provide an
20 opportunity for Federally-qualified users, or increased
21 opportunity in Berners Bay and maybe Patty can state
22 that to you and then my question is whether or not
23 under your -- the current draw permit system, whether
24 or not you would be able to implement that
25 recommendation.

26

27 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
28 Ms. Needham. Mr. Ryan.

29

30 So without changing the existing State
31 draw process, those that are Federally-qualified that
32 draw a permit would be able to harvest in a week early
33 season, all permits would be able to harvest in the
34 remaining season after the week early season is over.

35

36 MR. SCOTT: Through the Chair. Member
37 Needham and Member Phillips.

38

39 To be honest with you I can't answer
40 that. I don't know what the right answer is. I have
41 some questions about the Constitutionality of that with
42 the Department of Fish and Game as we can't
43 differentiate -- you know we treat all Alaskans as
44 Alaskans, which is the premise of the, you know, the
45 lottery as well. So I can find out the answer for you
46 for sure but I don't have it off the top of my head.

47

48 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Patty.

49

50

1 MS. PHILLIPS: Without that answer, the
2 other option is to have a Federal drawing process and a
3 State drawing process.

4
5 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Council.

6
7 (No comments)

8
9 CHAIRMAN BANGS: This is a tough one.

10
11 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.

12
13 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Patty.

14
15 MS. PHILLIPS: Is the Fed -- are our
16 Federal managers able to respond to that question.

17
18 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Terry.

19
20 MR. SUMINSKI: Ms. Phillips, through
21 the Chair. Good idea. But, you know, I'm trying to
22 think on my feet right now and I'm not very good at
23 that, I like to analyze things a little more. But I
24 think there's -- you know, we could -- the State draw
25 permit stayed the same and if a Federally-qualified
26 user drew a permit, I think the way that could work and
27 I don't want to be locked into this but just an idea,
28 if we establish a Federal season that started before
29 the State season, you know, say started how many days
30 before the State season continued until the end of the
31 State season, that way only the Federally-qualified
32 draw permit winner could hunt those first few days.

33
34 I think that would work, but don't
35 quote me, I'm just trying to help the situation. But
36 it's something that, you know, I'd have to check
37 further with the policy people at OSM but I -- we're on
38 new ground a little bit so I hope I don't get myself in
39 trouble here.

40
41 (Laughter)

42
43 MR. SUMINSKI: Thank you.

44
45 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Terry.

46
47 So in other words what we'd do is do
48 away with this proposal and then introduce a proposal
49 that requested a Federal hunting season for moose in

50

1 Berners Bay and then that would be set a week before --
2 start a week before the regular season and then only
3 Federally-qualified hunters would be able to hunt
4 during that period.

5
6 Is that the gist of what I'm thinking.

7
8 MR. SUMINSKI: Mr. Chair. If they want
9 to draw through the State drawing, yeah.

10
11 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Anyone else.

12
13 Mr. Hernandez.

14
15 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr.
16 Chairman.

17
18 I'm going to introduce kind of a
19 different topic of discussion but it's something that
20 I've just kind of been trying to resolve here and
21 during the breaks I've been looking through the
22 regulation books and what not trying to find an answer
23 to it. I guess my question is, to the Staff, why are
24 we obligated to provide for a rural priority for
25 Berners Bay when we do not have any kind of a separate
26 customary and traditional use determination for Berners
27 Bay. We have a customary and traditional use
28 determination for all of Unit 1C, but I don't know why
29 that would obligate us to even be talking about Berners
30 Bay specifically.

31
32 So, I don't know, I can't find that in
33 the regulation books, the answer to that question.

34
35 MS. HARDIN: Through the Chair.
36 Jennifer Hardin for the record. I'm not sure if my
37 answer's going to satisfy you, but, the first part is
38 that we address proposals as we receive them. And so
39 in this instance there's a C&T for moose for 1C, it
40 includes residents of 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, rural residents
41 of Units 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. Berners Bay is within that
42 unit and there's no Federal open season. Therefore, we
43 received a request to provide for a Federal priority on
44 Federal public lands and we have to address the
45 proposals that we receive.

46
47 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Followup, Don.

48
49 MR. HERNANDEZ: Okay. So I guess the
50

1 answer to that is because it specifically mentioned
2 that Berners Bay has no Federal open season that we
3 would have to -- I guess the proponent is saying that
4 we would have to change that in some way, open a season
5 for -- have some kind of a Federal-qualified season in
6 Berners Bay.

7
8 MS. HARDIN: That's correct. Currently
9 -- so the proposal you have in front of you, the OSM
10 preliminary conclusion establishes a Federal season for
11 Berners Bay where one did not previously exist, or does
12 not currently exist.

13
14 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Mr. Yeager.

15
16 MR. YEAGER: Thanks, Mr. Chair. If
17 there were a chance that a split permit would come
18 through or work where a Federally-qualified user that
19 drew a permit would be able to take advantage of a
20 hunting period earlier than the State hunt would open,
21 aren't we asking the State to -- wouldn't that just
22 muddy the waters, I mean it would be up to them to
23 decide -- or to determine and contact this person and
24 there'd be extra steps in the State system. It just
25 seems like kind of, you know, a State -- or an agency
26 contacting a Federally-qualified user just doesn't seem
27 very clear, or very clean.

28
29 Thanks.

30
31 MR. SCOTT: Through the Chair. Member
32 Yeager. I think you're exactly right. I think that it
33 would be incumbent on the Forest Service and OSM to --
34 if the Council goes down that road, to utilize their
35 own drawing process, their own, however they choose,
36 determine to go forward with that.

37
38 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Steve.

39
40 MR. REIFENSTUHL: Well, I agree with
41 that because otherwise the State would be complicit in
42 an exercise that they, the AG would see as
43 discriminatory and I think that is the correct answer.

44
45 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Well, it doesn't seem
46 that it would be very muddy water if the Federal agency
47 just had a Federal hunt for whatever the length of time
48 is that the State has their hunt, if we had a Federal
49 -- you have to be Federally-qualified to hunt and you
50

1 just add a week to the beginning of it. It's just two
2 different hunts but it's the same draw. But if you're
3 Federally-qualified and you have a permit then you're
4 eligible to hunt during that extra week. It seems like
5 it would just be a Federal hunt in my mind.

6

7

Terry.

8

9

10 MR. SUMINSKI: So, Mr. Chairman, there
11 would have to be some coordination on the legal issues
12 of using the State draw, you know, outside of what --
13 you know, I'm sure -- I'm not sure, but their draw
14 permit probably has a date on it that corresponds with
15 the State season to make it legal so there's -- you
16 know, like I said there's going to be some coordination
17 we have to do on the legality of some of these things.

17

18

Thank you.

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Anyone else.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Any other ideas.

MR. HOWARD: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Albert.

MR. HOWARD: Mr. Chair. I'm wondering
if it can somewhat be handled the same way it's handled
in Angoon, the regular season in Angoon ends December
31st and then it gets extended to January 31st just on
Admiralty Island, we're not allowed to go across
Chatham and it doesn't seem to be that big of a deal
for deer hunting. I mean it's on Federal public lands,
like she mentioned, so we do have to recognize the
subsistence priority.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Mr. Douville.

MR. DOUVILLE: I realize there's some

1 confusion but, you know, this is a draw hunt as opposed
2 to a regular hunt, like on Unit 2 if the State issues
3 tags and I use them on Federal land before anyone else
4 can hunt, so there is some precedence for that. But
5 being a draw hunt I realize it is a little different,
6 but it does work both ways in this case at least, or
7 hunting deer in Unit 2.

8
9 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Patty.

10
11 MS. PHILLIPS: Can we -- we would have
12 to modify the proposal, but could we have it be vague,
13 like establish a draw permit process and that would
14 allow them to look at whether the -- during -- you
15 know, the State draw process would work, or if not,
16 then we would establish a Federal draw permit process
17 and then they would have a one week early prior to the
18 State season.

19
20 CHAIRMAN BANGS: I'm not sure exactly
21 what you mean by modifying this proposal or getting --
22 just getting rid of this proposal and -- okay, yeah, I
23 understand, just do away with this proposal and then
24 write a proposal ourselves or a recommendation to add a
25 week to the hunt for the people that draw that are
26 Federally-qualified.

27
28 Mike.

29
30 MR. DOUVILLE: Would you not be
31 changing the modification, I mean not the whole
32 proposal, but this modification?

33
34 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Patty.

35
36 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
37 Clarification. So what's on the table, what page,
38 which one are we looking at, Page 256 with the
39 modification or.....

40
41 CHAIRMAN BANGS: The modification is
42 also on 241, with the modification.

43
44 MS. PHILLIPS: So what's on the table,
45 is it the proposed regulation or the OSM preliminary
46 conclusion?

47
48 CHAIRMAN BANGS: OSM is the one that
49 Cathy put on the table.

1 (Pause)

2

3 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Mr. Schroeder.

4

5 MR. SCHROEDER: We've been spending a
6 lot of time on this, perhaps it's pretty close to
7 summary comments and then we vote something up or down.

8

9 I am most likely to be opposing this
10 proposal for the following reasons.

11

12 I don't believe that a shortage has
13 been shown for moose in Berners Bay. I believe that
14 management has been very effective in providing a
15 hunting opportunity, and that the hunting opportunity
16 is open to all Alaska residents including Federally-
17 qualified subsistence users.

18

19 Further reasons for opposing this is I
20 note that there is no advisory committee support for
21 this proposal and local advisory committees,
22 particularly, Gustavus and Hoonah and other
23 communities, or Haines and other communities who might
24 potentially use this resource.

25

26 I am also really bothered by the
27 rewriting of the proposal by OSM Staff without
28 consultation with the proponent.

29

30 And I believe that the existing
31 management structure works fine, particularly since the
32 demonstration of shortage has not been shown.

33

34 So I'm most likely to be opposing this
35 proposal.

36

37 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you. Don.

38

39 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr.
40 Chairman. Unfortunately I kind of disagree with Bob on
41 that because his premise is entirely wrong. Hunting
42 regulations, Federal regulations, Page 26, of the
43 regulation book, Unit 1C, Berners Bay drainages, no
44 Federal open season. How can we have Federal lands
45 with moose available closed to Federal residents. I
46 don't know how that regulation was enacted but that's
47 just against everything in ANILCA we -- in the
48 regulation book we have Federal lands that are closed
49 to Federally-qualified users. I mean everywhere else

50

1 we have a moose season, it's -- our regulations align.
2 We have a Federal season, we have a State season and
3 they're the same, and, you know, Federally-qualified
4 people have to follow the State regulations, yet for
5 some reason in Berners Bay there's no Federal open
6 season. That has to be remedied and we have to deal
7 with that right there.

8
9 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Maybe Mr. Scott
10 could.....

11
12 MR. SCHROEDER: Could I respond to
13 that?

14
15 CHAIRMAN BANGS:clarify.

16
17 Well, I think a clarification would be
18 appropriate if Mr. Scott has one and then you could
19 go.....

20
21 MR. SCOTT: Through the Chair. Member
22 Hernandez. I guess I interpreted that as there's not a
23 Federal priority but the lands are certainly not closed
24 to Federal users.

25
26 I believe there's a difference.

27
28 And in addition to that, in all of Unit
29 1C, and if I stray outside the bounds of our
30 discussion, please, tell me, there are moose hunting
31 opportunities throughout the unit, you know, including
32 -- and Berners Bay is certainly one of them, but I did
33 want to make sure that, you know, we're not -- that's
34 not the only place that moose occur in Unit 1C. They
35 do occur in other places as well as -- that benefit --
36 you know, there's other hunts in very close connection
37 that benefit rural residents directly.

38
39 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Scott.

40
41 Dr. Schroeder.

42
43 MR. SCHROEDER: Just I am opposing the
44 proposal, I have no opinion on whether it's completely
45 fine to do a housekeeping thing saying that Federal
46 lands are open and we use the State drawing permit. I
47 see that as just a housekeeping matter. I don't
48 believe anyone is closed out of hunting in Berners Bay
49 because of the four words in the regulation book.

50

1 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Mr. Howard.

2

3 MR. HOWARD: I know you want me to be
4 quick but no one else is being quick.

5

6 (Laughter)

7

8 MR. HOWARD: But for the record I'm
9 also (In Tlingit) and for the record I don't agree with
10 Bob. So that happens a lot in my parents house, I
11 don't agree with my brother.

12

13 (Laughter)

14

15 MR. HOWARD: It was stated this is
16 Federal public lands and, again, I'll just say ANILCA
17 gives us clear direction when it comes to this.

18

19 And we've done a lot of housekeeping,
20 whether we've brought regulations to mirror the State's
21 regulations, so that cleaned up that whole part of
22 certain regulations, it was called a housekeeping -- we
23 called it a housekeeping proposal. We passed that all
24 of Southeast have a Federal deer hunting season if they
25 qualify. Now, we're hearing that in this area they
26 don't have one, a Federal hunting season, I agree with
27 splitting it and I think we should and see how that
28 works. It isn't impossible. It's not rocket science.
29 I've listened to you and I appreciate your ability to
30 meet everything halfway and that speaks loudly for you
31 and your willingness to listen. So I think, you know,
32 splitting it, I think that would meet both groups
33 halfway.

34

35 The thing I'm hearing and it's been
36 bothering me so I have to say something, the word,
37 subsistence, is rural designation. It's being thrown
38 around everywhere now and when a person uses it in a
39 non-rural community, they're also using the same words,
40 barter and trade. That barter and trade happens in our
41 small communities because an elderly lady can't afford
42 to go hunting. When I give deer away, I don't expect
43 anything. I use four deer a year and give the rest
44 away. I give it away. I don't ask for nothing. I'm
45 not supposed to. Our elders, that's their retirement.

46

47 My parents were fortunate. My mother
48 retired from the school district after 26 years. My
49 dad retired as a magistrate. So they had that

50

1 retirement. My grandparents didn't have the retirement
2 that most of us in this room are used to so what
3 they're retirement was to teach the grandchildren how
4 to hunt and fish, how to live off the resource that was
5 there when they decided, this is a great place to raise
6 a family, this is a great place, we should be here
7 because everything is here in front of us. So their
8 retirement system was me going to get them fish. So
9 the barter and trade shouldn't apply to non-rural.
10 That's my opinion. You know, everyone's entitled to it
11 so I think we're bound by .804.

12

13 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14

15 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Albert.

16

17 Cathy.

18

19 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

20 This is really difficult.

21

22 I don't think at this time that I can
23 support this proposal for a lot of reasons that Mr.
24 Schroeder put on. I wholly believe that we should try
25 to find a way to address the proponent's concern. He
26 gave testimony today that he put this proposal in
27 because he sees this discrepancy in being able to
28 provide a Federal subsistence priority, and I want us
29 to be able to address that but I don't believe that
30 this proposal can be implemented to do so, and at the
31 same time maintain a management system on a very small
32 population of moose.

33

34 I think, you know, we still have to go
35 back and think, well, does it create a conservation
36 concern and I think changing the management of it right
37 now without being able to analyze that would create a
38 conservation -- or could create that conservation
39 concern because the population is so small to be
40 managed.

41

42 And so I don't think I'm going to
43 support this proposal but I would want us to continue
44 this discussion much like the proponent has asked us to
45 in order to solve this problem in the future, whether
46 that's putting in a future proposal where we have
47 another cycle that we can really think about how to
48 best do that and best implement it without creating
49 that problem of conservation for animals.

50

1 Thank you.

2
3 CHAIRMAN BANGS: John.

4
5 MR. YEAGER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
6 agree with Cathy there.

7
8 I feel that there's too many what-ifs,
9 and as much as I respect everyone's input on the
10 Council here, personally I'm more of a visual person
11 and I would appreciate more of maybe possibly giving
12 direction to Staff to do more with this, give us some
13 examples of how would a Federal permit draw look, how
14 would it work in concert with the State, how would this
15 be managed. I mean maybe all those points have already
16 been addressed, I'm usually confused and we've been
17 discussing this for a long time, so there's a good
18 chance that I just drowned in this. But my opinion is,
19 and I hate to create more work for us later down the
20 road but potentially deferring this for further
21 analysis so that we could have something more in front
22 of us, would, for myself, give me a lot clearer
23 perspective and an opportunity to be fair to everyone
24 around the table and everyone that has testified in
25 this.

26
27 So I just wanted to state that and I
28 don't know that I can support the proposal but I think
29 that more analysis and giving Staff a chance would be
30 very beneficial to me in general.

31
32 Thank you.

33
34 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.

35
36 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Patty.

37
38 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. If
39 that is what happens then where does it leave -- when
40 does it get addressed, in a year, in two years, I mean
41 when is the next wildlife proposal process?

42
43 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Yeah, it would be the
44 next cycle, like two years, that's when we would
45 address it again, would be a couple years. Or we could
46 take it out of cycle if we were to take it up during
47 the fisheries which would be pretty difficult, I think.

48
49 Patty, did you have a followup.

50

1 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
2 So followup. The motion before us on the table could
3 be modified to change the date from September 8th to
4 September 14th, one bull by Federal drawing permit for
5 both -- and then the one antlerless moose, September
6 8th through September 14th.

7
8 Does this bottom sentence, Federal
9 public lands are closed to the harvest of moose except
10 by Federally-qualified subsistence users, does that
11 sentence apply -- would that sentence apply to it if
12 the date was modified to September 8th to 14th, would
13 it apply only to those dates?

14
15 MS. KENNER: Hi. This is Pippa Kenner
16 with OSM. I was talking to Terry when you asked the
17 question, could you please pose your question again.

18
19 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.

20
21 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Go ahead, Patty.

22
23 MS. PHILLIPS: If we were to amend the
24 motion on the floor to change the date, which the
25 motion on the floor is to accept the OSM preliminary
26 conclusion, to change the date to September 8th to
27 September 14th for both one bull by Federal drawing
28 permit and one antlerless moose by Federal drawing
29 permit in Units 1C, would that bottom sentence;

30 Federal public lands are closed to the
31 harvest of moose except by Federally-qualified
32 subsistence users, would that sentence apply to that
33 date September 8th to 14th?

34
35 MR. SUMINSKI: Through the Chair. Ms.
36 Phillips. If I understand your question, you're saying
37 that all the moose would be under a Federal draw
38 permit?

39
40 MS. PHILLIPS: For Federally-qualified
41 harvesters.

42
43 MS. KENNER: I'm just going to clarify
44 a little bit your question, this is Pippa Kenner.

45
46 If you modified your motion, the
47 Federal closure that we see here will apply to Federal
48 public lands in Berners Bay year-round unless you
49 specifically state they will only be closed during

50

1 certain dates.

2

3

MR. SUMINSKI: For the taking of moose.

4

5

MS. KENNER: For the taking of moose.

6

7

MS. PHILLIPS: Followup, Mr. Chair.

8

9

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Patty.

10

11

12

MS. PHILLIPS: So we would strike that sentence then or modify that sentence, final sentence.

13

14

15

MS. KENNER: Thank you for the question. Through the Chair. What sentence?

16

17

MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.

18

19

20

Under OSM preliminary conclusion, Page 241, that final sentence says:

21

22

23

24

Federal public lands are closed to the harvest of moose except by Federally-qualified subsistence users.

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MS. KENNER: Thank you for the question. Through the Chair. If you strike the sentence, Federal public lands will be open to the harvest of moose by all State residen -- to Federally-qualified and non-Federally-qualified users. That is people hunting under State regulations will be able to enter Federal public lands in Berners Bay for the purpose of taking a moose.

34

35

36

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Cathy.

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43

MS. NEEDHAM: In that case if it was closed, if Federal public lands are closed to the harvest of moose except for by Federally-qualified subsistence users would there then even be a State draw permit or a State -- I mean the State -- that takes the State out of the equation, the current regulations, for State.

44

45

46

47

48

MS. KENNER: Because I started answering the question I'll continue. Thanks for the question, Madame Chair [sic].

49

50

State regulations, there may be an open

1 season in the Berners Bay drainage under State
2 regulations, but Federal lands, Federal public lands of
3 the Berners Bay area would be closed to the harvest of
4 caribou [sic] -- excuse me -- closed to the harvest of
5 moose by people -- except by Federally-qualified users,
6 so any State lands or private lands, State managed
7 lands that exist in the area would remain open.

8

9

MS. PHILLIPS: So, Mr. Chair.

10

11

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Patty.

12

13

14

15

16

17

MS. PHILLIPS: So can we add the caveat
-- or can we add the date September 8th through
September 14th, Federal public lands are closed to the
harvest of moose except by Federally-qualified
subsistence users.

18

19

20

MS. KENNER: Thanks for the question.
This is Pippa Kenner again, through the Chair.

21

22

You may.

23

24

25

MR. SUMINSKI: Through the Chair. Ms.
Phillips.

26

27

28

29

30

31

I think you have to be careful that
we're -- I think the only reason we would have the
closure is for taking of moose. So if that's your
intent I think I would make that clear and not just a
complete closure, you know what I mean.

32

33

Thank you.

34

35

36

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Ryan.

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MR. SCOTT: Mr. Chairman. Just as a
point of clarification for me as well as -- I heard
both an antlered moose and an antlerless moose and I
guess I would pose the question to OSM, you know, we
don't -- that population should not have an antlerless
moose harvest at this point and so I would ask the
question, does the Regional Advisory Council and/or OSM
have the ability to not issue those if biologically
they're not warranted.

46

47

48

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Patty.

49

50

MS. PHILLIPS: So is there a way to put

1 the modified motion on the screen. So 1C antlerless
2 would be may be announced, September 8th through
3 September 14th, that was what my intention would be.
4

5 And I would need -- I mean I'm just
6 suggesting this RAC members, so I'm still having
7 difficulty with that final sentence, how to make it
8 work.
9

10 Thank you.

11
12 MR. SUMINSKI: Through the Chair. Ms.
13 Phillips.
14

15 I'm having a hard time following what
16 the overall intent is because the OSM recommendation
17 was basically close the area for the taking of moose to
18 all but Federally-qualified, have a Federal draw permit
19 -- or draw for however many moose are available, and
20 then -- so I'm not sure what the question is about the
21 season dates or what that is about really.
22

23 Are you still talking about just it's
24 totally a Federal hunt, no State hunt -- okay, so
25 that's where I'm losing you, I'm -- we can't -- I'm
26 sorry, so thank you.
27

28 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.
29

30 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Patty.
31

32 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you. So what I'm
33 trying to do -- what I'm trying to look at is a one
34 week early Federally-qualified subsistence users can
35 hunt from September 8th to 14th, and then the State
36 season can do their thing. So I'm just trying to
37 modify this, our motion on the floor to reflect that.
38

39 CHAIRMAN BANGS: And the way I look at
40 it if we used any part of this proposal we'd have to
41 totally change it to not exclude the State, I.....
42

43 MS. KENNER: Just for clarification.
44

45 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Go ahead.
46

47 MS. KENNER: The OSM preliminary
48 conclusion, it involves a closure, it involves seasons,
49 involves harvest limit and you can modify those. So
50

1 what Member Phillips has posed is that rather than
2 closing, having a Federal closure to the harvest of
3 moose except by Federally-qualified that exist during
4 the period that the State currently has an open season,
5 that that closure be modified so that it's only for an
6 early one week or from September 8th to 14th, that that
7 closure exists while it's open to the Federally-
8 qualified and the effect of that would be that during
9 the State open -- the State's moose open season in
10 Berners Bay would still exist and Federally public
11 lands would be open to the harvest of moose by non-
12 Federally-qualified users.

13
14 CHAIRMAN BANGS: I understand her
15 intent but I don't understand how we could just add
16 that to this proposal without being -- completely a
17 Federal hunt.

18
19 Don.

20
21 MR. HERNANDEZ: There's no need for a
22 Federal closure -- or excuse me -- no need for a non-
23 Federally-qualified closure because it would not be
24 open. The State is not going to open until September
25 15th, there will be no other season, so there's no need
26 for a closure. We could just strike it all together.

27
28 MS. KENNER: This is Pippa Kenner,
29 again. But you are modifying the season so that the
30 Federal season will exist one week before the State
31 season.

32
33 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Exactly. I agree.
34 But I think that that -- creating the Federal hunt is a
35 lot different than using this proposal unless I'm
36 misunderstanding the intent of the proponent.

37
38 MS. KENNER: Ahh, Mr. Chair, I now
39 understand what you are asking.

40
41 Because -- in the -- in the Federal
42 Program to take a proposal to open opportunity and end
43 up in a place where you restrict opportunity more,
44 generally we would strongly advise against this,
45 however, a Federal season doesn't exist now so
46 providing an early -- a so-called early season is still
47 extending additional opportunity to Federally-qualified
48 users and, therefore, it doesn't meet the earlier
49 criteria I stated where you're actually taking away

50

1 opportunity.

2

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CHAIRMAN BANGS: Patty.

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MS. PHILLIPS: So what I understand is we could modify the motion on the floor to change the date for Unit 1C moose -- Unit 1C Berners Bay drainages, one bull by Federal drawing permit September 8th through 14th; Unit 1C Berners Bay drainages, one antlerless moose by Federal drawing permit may be announced September 8th through 14th, and strike that last sentence.

Would that work.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Terry.

MR. SUMINSKI: Mr. Chair. I believe the -- I think it might be easier to maybe remove the motion, start clean, you know, support Proposal WP18-11 with modification and then go from there. The other language, trying to modify that other language doesn't seem to fit with what Ms. Phillips is trying to do.

You know, from what I'm hearing from Ms. Phillips is that you'd like to establish a season that starts before the State season and that would be subject to, you know, successful draw from, you know, a State permit.

Is that correct?

Or because when I asked earlier, I asked if you wanted to do a completely Federal draw hunt, then there -- if it's all Federal hunt there's no reason to mess with the season, correct, because you've basically excluded the State, you know, the State hunt. So I think there's a lot of things getting mixed up here.

MS. KENNER: This is Pippa Kenner again.

MR. SUMINSKI: Let's wait and listen.....

MS. KENNER: Patty's intent was pretty clear, she was establishing an early season with a Federal permit.

1 An I wrong?

2

3 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Patty.

4

5 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair. It's not my
6 intent to exclude the State draw permit process and
7 season. If it'd be cleaner, I would recommend we vote
8 down the existing motion on the table and then submit a
9 new motion as I indicated earlier, but, you know, it's
10 up to you guys.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BANGS: So if I understand you
13 right all you want to do is create a Federal hunt with
14 a State draw tag.

15

16 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: No.

17

18 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.

19

20 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Just to extend.....

21

22 MS. PHILLIPS: Because.....

23

24 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Non-Federal?

25

26 MS. PHILLIPS: Because of the legal
27 questions about utilizing the State draw system, then
28 that's why I said it would be a Federal drawing permit
29 for that September 8th through 14th.

30

31 I mean if it works with the State draw
32 system, that would be the simplest, but because of some
33 legal concerns, Constitutional concerns, it might be
34 cleaner to just go with the Federal drawing permit.

35

36 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Cathy.

37

38 MS. NEEDHAM: So, Patty, would it be
39 safe to say the proposed -- the original proposed
40 regulation, if you look at that, the only thing you're
41 changing is the dates, right, so that would just be 8th
42 through the 14th, you would just use the dates on that
43 column, so that would be the new proposed regulation.

44

45 The bottom part isn't on there.

46

47 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay. Okay. Mr.

48 Reifenstuhl.

49

50

1 MR. REIFENSTUHL: So if we did this, in
2 that first week, is there a limit on the take, so if
3 the Department is giving the biological analysis, they
4 say that five bulls is the limit, could five bulls be
5 taken in that first week?

6
7 I mean if you look at the data, in the
8 last few years it's been four Juneau residents and one
9 rural, I think that's kind of been the trend, but when
10 you drop that out, that first week you may well get
11 three or five people qualified and they could take all
12 the moose at once and I believe your compromise, I mean
13 the intent, I think is to try to split the baby again,
14 trying to give some opportunity, leave some opportunity
15 for the Juneau residents, this potentially could not
16 work, like your intent.

17
18 Thank you.

19
20 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Don.

21
22 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah, there would also
23 have to be some management decisions made. I mean this
24 would require, you know, reporting requirements so that
25 the managers would know how many moose were taken in a
26 timely fashion so that if there were -- if the intended
27 take were not harvested by the Federally-qualified
28 people, then there would be those moose available in a
29 later season to all residents. So it would take some
30 in-season management, which isn't in place now, but I
31 think you'd just have to leave that up to the local
32 managers to work out, which they might not like to.

33
34 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Patty.

35
36 MS. PHILLIPS: I mean that's why if we
37 could work with the State draw permit system it would
38 simplify that but there are too many unknowns now.

39
40 CHAIRMAN BANGS: I agree. And it's --
41 John.

42
43 MR. YEAGER: Sorry, Mr. Chair, I can
44 see your expressions.

45
46 Once, again, seeing lots of what-if's,
47 hearing what-if's, lots of shoulder shrugging and not
48 knowing is not adding to my confidence that we're going
49 to be going in a good direction here and I don't know

50

1 if this is a point of order or not but we are on Item
2 8, discussion and justification and now this is
3 starting to sound like we're rewriting proposals and
4 normally I don't think we do this during this time of
5 our process. So I feel that we're kind of way off the
6 trail here even though this is a good discussion, I
7 think we're right in the process of writing proposals
8 and I'm not comfortable with that at this particular
9 juncture.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, John.

12

13 Steve.

14

15 MR. REIFENSTUHL: I'd like to suggest
16 that Staff has heard a lot and if it would be
17 appropriate they could bring some additional
18 information at our next meeting just as a briefing that
19 would help maybe set the table for this and I'd like to
20 call for the question.

21

22 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay. The question's
23 been called for on the proposal as modified by OSM,
24 that's WP18-11. Take a roll call.

25

26 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

27

28 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Excuse me, I want to
29 clarify for Don, we're voting on the motion on the
30 floor right now, is the OSM preliminary conclusion as
31 modified and it's WP18-11.

32

33 Mr. Kitka.

34

35 MR. KITKA: Steve Reifenstuh1.

36

37 MR. REIFENSTUHL: No.

38

39 MR. KITKA: Patricia Phillips.

40

41 MS. PHILLIPS: Yes.

42

43 MR. KITKA: Michael Douville.

44

45 MR. DOUVILLE: No.

46

47 MR. KITKA: Harvey Kitka is no.

48

49 Robert Schroeder.

50

1 MR. SCHROEDER: No.
2
3 MR. KITKA: Albert Howard.
4
5 MR. HOWARD: Yes.
6
7 MR. KITKA: Donald Hernandez.
8
9 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yes.
10
11 MR. KITKA: Raymond Sensmeier.
12
13 MR. SENSMEIER: Yes.
14
15 MR. KITKA: John Yeager.
16
17 MR. YEAGER: No.
18
19 MR. KITKA: Michael Bangs.
20
21 CHAIRMAN BANGS: No.
22
23 MR. KITKA: Cathy Needham.
24
25 MS. NEEDHAM: No.
26
27 MR. KITKA: Mr. Chair. The motion
28 failed, I think it's seven to four.
29
30 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Kitka.
31
32 Mr. Hernandez.
33
34 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
35 Chairman.
36
37 A little hazy here on my Robert's Rules
38 of order but I guess my intention in voting yes was
39 that I would like to request reconsideration and I
40 don't know if that's -- like I say I couldn't
41 remember.....
42
43 MR. SCHROEDER: The losing side can't
44 request.
45
46 MR. HERNANDEZ: The losing side can't
47 request, okay, it had to be a -- okay. Because I want
48 -- I would prefer that this be taken up at a later date
49 as well but I guess that's not possible.
50

1 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay. Well, we're
2 going to have to take a short lunch because we're
3 really running out of time here and I really would like
4 to get through the agenda so could we get by with a 45
5 minute lunch and show back up at 1:00, between 1:00 and
6 1:15, I'll give you a little leeway.

7
8 Thank you.

9
10 (Off record)

11
12 (On record)

13
14 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Please take your
15 seats.

16
17 (Pause)

18
19 CHAIRMAN BANGS: We have a -- I'm
20 assured that it's going to be a short public testimony.
21 He understands that we're under a time crunch, so
22 Clarence Skafelsted from Hoonah.

23
24 MR. SKAFELSTED: Clarence Skafelsted
25 from Hoonah, Alaska, born and raised, my father born
26 and raised in Hoonah, my grandmother was born and
27 raised in Hoonah, my great-grandmother was born and
28 raised in Glacier Bay. Under the 1972 Settlement Act,
29 everything you got sitting in front of you is supposed
30 to be the people first, the State of Alaska shut king
31 salmon down as Lynn Canal was open to all the
32 gillnetters. Sorry, I'm going to slow down.

33
34 When I started seining herring, it was
35 \$4,000 a ton, it's down to \$200 a ton, why are we
36 taking our herring. The king crab, the State doesn't
37 recognize king crab as a subsistence species, go to the
38 Art of Institute of the Chicago, Illinois and in the
39 regalia there is a (In Tlingit) 300 year old with king
40 crab in it, I guess they just found that on the beach.

41
42 Another thing that I'd like to ask is
43 how come king salmon is not a subsistence species.

44
45 Everything in this book was supposed to
46 be for the people first.

47
48 My grandmother told me subsistence was
49 not a thing that you went out and you have a time

50

1 limit. Hoktaheen is open June 1st to July 10th,
2 Hoktaheen and Hoonah, we don't get fish until July 1st,
3 so we got 10 days to get fish out by Pelican.

4
5 So with that in mind, you got
6 Sweetheart Creek down here that's open from June 1st to
7 October 31st that the Juneau people can get sockeye
8 that whole entire time.

9
10 For subsistence, under coho, it's so
11 nice of you guys to finally recognize that after --
12 about six years ago you finally recognized coho because
13 you guys said that the Natives weren't smart enough, I
14 guess to catch them, but the cohos, you're allowed 20
15 cohos per year, 20 -- 40 per year, but 20 in possession
16 or I can take my three kids and my wife and go up the
17 stream under sport and I can catch six cohos a day
18 under sport, so six times five people, is what, 30 fish
19 I can catch under sport per day every day and I can do
20 that for a month straight, I can prove that to you.

21
22 Sweetheart -- or the thing is is the
23 seining, the gillnetters, everything else under ANILCA
24 has been -- everything is absolutely backwards.

25
26 We have got natural resources where we
27 come from Alaska without a southern drawl but I'm going
28 to use you, is that okay, you're from California, you
29 cannot go shoot a brown bear, a subsistence brown bear,
30 you cannot go shoot a brown bear, but you can come to
31 Alaska get a guide license, go back to California, come
32 back two weeks out of the year and you can bring
33 someone else guiding them to kill a brown bear, what is
34 a natural resource, just like our oil, which is really
35 funny because my dad who's 77 years old and he'd be
36 sitting right here but he doesn't talk as good as I do,
37 he's (In Tlingit), that means we're from Glacier Bay,
38 this here is an absolute backwards, the whole process
39 is wrong.

40
41 When we did the Native Settlement Act
42 it was supposed to be the people first and it's not the
43 people first, everything is about money and you guys
44 put hatcheries in and you put restrictions on the
45 Native peoples and the law enforcement is absolutely
46 unbelievable. I was told by a State Trooper that every
47 -- if you go hunting more than five times a year you
48 are a criminal. Now, I was born and raised in Hoonah,
49 like I said, and I have spent a lot of time and I'm a

50

1 target because I go out and I get my elders, and I know
2 people from Angoon and people from Pelican, they do the
3 same thing.
4

5 So I don't know why we're sitting here
6 arguing about moose that they are going to say that
7 they planted there when my dad was a kid, homeshore had
8 no moose, there's a hunting season in moose now, so if
9 they're saying that a moose was not smart enough to
10 walk over to Berners Bay you guys can keep arguing
11 about the point. I'm just saying as an Alaska Native
12 it's absolutely backwards, it's unbelievable, it's
13 ridiculous and until you put the people first,
14 nothing's going to be correct.
15

16 Thank you for your time.
17

18 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Clarence.
19

20 Okay.
21

22 We're moving on to the next proposal,
23 which is WP18-12, add residents of Gustavus to
24 customary and traditional use for mountain goat in Unit
25 1C.
26

27 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr.....
28

29 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Pippa.
30

31 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My
32 name is Pippa Kenner and I'm an anthropologist with the
33 Office of Subsistence Management in Anchorage.
34

35 This analysis WP18-12 begins on Page
36 266 of your Council book and I think there might be
37 some Council books left in the back of the room for
38 people in the audience who would like to follow along.
39

40 Okay, I'm going to keep it brief but
41 I'm going to give you the information you need.
42

43 This proposal was submitted by Cal
44 Casipit and requests to add residents of the community
45 of Gustavus to the customary and traditional use
46 determination for mountain goat in Unit C [sic].
47

48 The proponent states that the customary
49 and traditional use determination for mountain goat in
50

1 Unit 1C includes residents of Units 1D and 4, yet,
2 Gustavus, which is in Unit 1C is not included in the
3 customary and traditional use determination.
4

5 Now, the proponent asked for one
6 community, Gustavus, to be included in existing C&T
7 determination and therefore we are only going to review
8 the customary and traditional uses of mountain goat in
9 Unit 1C by Gustavus.
10

11 The current customary and traditional
12 use determination includes residents of Haines, Kake,
13 Klukwan, Petersburg and Hoonah. That C&T determination
14 was adopted from State regulations and there's been one
15 change to it that the Council recommended since then
16 and that was including Kake and Petersburg.
17

18 Historically Gustavus was used by the
19 Tlingit people for seasonal harvesting and processing
20 of subsistence resources. It is within the traditional
21 territory of the Hoonah Kwaan. Western settlers became
22 established at Gustavus as early as 1917 and the first
23 homestead patent was issued in 1923 and in 1923 Glacier
24 Bay National Monument was established and the area was
25 expanded and became Glacier Bay National Park in 1980
26 when ANILCA was passed. In 2010 the total population
27 year-round residents that were documented at Gustavus
28 is 442, but it's been estimated by the State that as
29 many as 800 additional residents temporarily reside
30 there in the summer engaged in seasonal employment and
31 recreational activities and, of course, the C&T
32 determination will not apply to those temporary
33 residents.
34

35 There is a long-term consistent pattern
36 of use of mountain goat in Unit 1C by residents of
37 Gustavus. The contemporary permanent occupation of
38 Gustavus was held primarily by non-Native homesteaders
39 who have continued a pattern of historic use of
40 mountain goat in Unit 1C and, of course, residents of
41 Gustavus now include non-Native residents also.
42

43 The Division of Subsistence at Fish and
44 Game conducted harvest surveys in 1987 and found that
45 four percent of households were using mountain goat in
46 that year and that all of them had received it from
47 another household. Between 1980 and 1997 at least 13
48 residents of Gustavus hunted for mountain goat in Unit
49 1C based on Fish and Game reporting system and at least
50

1 four were successful. More recently between 2014 and
2 '16 seven Gustavus households reported hunting for
3 mountain goat in Unit 1C and four were successful.
4

5 The OSM preliminary conclusion and
6 justification is that OSM support Proposal WP18-12.
7

8 Based on a review of the eight factors
9 rural residents of Gustavus have demonstrated customary
10 and traditional use of mountain goat in Unit 1C
11 according to ethnographic descriptions and harvest
12 documentation supporting such a finding residents of
13 Gustavus customary and traditionally used this resource
14 and continue to do so.
15

16 Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.
17 Members of the Council. And that's the end of my
18 presentation.
19

20 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Pippa.
21

22 Any questions for Pippa from the
23 Council.
24

25 (No comments)
26

27 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Pippa.
28

29 Is there any Board consultation with
30 tribes or ANCSA.
31

32 (No comments)
33

34 CHAIRMAN BANGS: None. ADF&G report.
35

36 MS. SILL: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
37 Members of the Council. For the record my name is
38 Lauren Sill, I'm a subsistence resource specialist with
39 the Department of Fish and Game. Stephanie Sell is up
40 here with me also Department of Fish and Game.
41

42 So the Department is neutral on this
43 proposal. The State Board of Game has made a positive
44 customary and traditional use determination for
45 mountain goats in Unit 1C. Gustavus residents
46 currently hunt goats in 1C under State regulations,
47 which is mostly registration permit hunts.
48

49 At this time the Department does not
50

1 have any conservation concerns for goats in Unit 1C,
2 however, it should be noted that goat populations in
3 general are conservatively managed. The Department
4 does not anticipate any impacts on other users of 1C
5 without further action by the Federal Subsistence Board
6 or the Board of Game.

7

8

Thank you.

9

10 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you. Any
11 questions from the Council.

12

13

(No comments)

14

15

16

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you. Are there
any Federal agency comments.

17

18

(No comments)

19

20

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Any tribal entities.

21

22

(No comments)

23

24

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Other Regional
Councils.

25

26

27

(No comments)

28

29

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Fish and Game Advisory
Committees.

30

31

32

(No comments)

33

34

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Subsistence Resource
Commissions.

35

36

37

MS. PERRY: No, Mr. Chair.

38

39

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Is there any written
public comments.

40

41

42

MS. PERRY: Yes. The public comments
for Wildlife Proposal 18-12 begin in your meeting book
on Page 276. We received two comments.

43

44

45

46

One comment was received from Curtis
Donald Thomas of Ketchikan addressing all Southeast
proposals. Key view points were that attempts were
being made to fix a problem that does not exist and he

47

48

49

50

1 expressed concerns regarding new classes of citizens
2 with special hunting rights being created, residency
3 criteria and the ability of some Alaskans to harvest 20
4 halibut a day.

5
6 Another comment in opposition was
7 received from Nicholas Orr. Viewpoints included
8 Gustavus is only slightly more than 100 years old and
9 as such lacks the customary and traditional parts of
10 the C&T designation and there has been no C&T use of
11 mountain goats in Gustavus, and this looks to be an
12 attempt to shoot mountain goats without regard for
13 season.

14
15 That concludes the written comments on
16 Wildlife Proposal 18-12 from the public.

17
18 Thank you, Chair.

19
20 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Ms. Perry.

21
22 Is there any public testimony in the
23 room.

24
25 (No comments)

26
27 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Are there any public
28 testimony on the phone line.

29
30 MR. CASIPIT: Yes, Mr. Chair, this is
31 Calvin Casipit. I'm the proponent of 18-12.

32
33 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Go ahead, Cal.

34
35 MR. CASIPIT: If I'm the only one I
36 guess I'll proceed otherwise if there's somebody else
37 they can chime in now.

38
39 (No comments)

40
41 MR. CASIPIT: It doesn't sound like it.

42
43 Okay.

44
45 The reason I put this in was well
46 described the analyst in the beginning. I just noticed
47 that, you know, for us residents of Gustavus that we
48 don't have customary and traditional determination for
49 a species that's in our own backyard yet places far
50

1 away from us do. And it's just another symptom of the
2 existing C&T process and how we got here and you all
3 are familiar with that and I don't need to go over it
4 again.

5
6 Anyway, I do support the preliminary
7 conclusion. I think that's the reason I put it in, I
8 knew what the data said, I knew that people that live
9 here hunt there for goats and, you know, I may be too
10 old to get up there and get a goat but I sure want to
11 ensure that my grandson has that opportunity when he
12 becomes of age. And, you know, that's what I was --
13 that's the reason I put in the proposal as opposed to a
14 public comment that was just read into the record about
15 hunting out of season which I don't -- I do not do,
16 don't advise anybody to do, would never direct my
17 grandson to do.

18
19 Anyway, that's all I had.

20
21 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Cal. It's
22 good to hear your voice.

23
24 Is there any questions for Cal.

25
26 (No comments)

27
28 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you. Is there
29 any other public testimony.

30
31 (No comments)

32
33 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Hearing none, what's
34 the wish of the Council.

35
36 Cathy.

37
38 MS. NEEDHAM: Mr. Chair. I move to
39 adopt Wildlife Proposal WP18-12.

40
41 MR. HOWARD: Second.

42
43 CHAIRMAN BANGS: It's been moved by Ms.
44 Needham and seconded by Mr. Sensmeier to adopt Proposal
45 WP18-12.

46
47 Discussion.

48
49 (Laughter)

50

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1 CHAIRMAN BANGS: I'm sorry, I thought
2 it was Ray, it was seconded by Mr. Howard.

3
4 Mr. Douville.

5
6 MR. DOUVILLE: Mr. Chairman. I support
7 the proposal. There's no conservation concern and it
8 is supported by TEK, if you will, it'll be beneficial
9 to subsistence users and it will not unnecessarily
10 restrict other users or uses.

11
12 Thank you.

13
14 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you for that
15 Mike.

16
17 Dr. Schroeder.

18
19 MR. SCHROEDER: I'm a civilian now,
20 just Bob Schroeder.

21
22 But I completely support this proposal
23 and I don't think there is anything particularly
24 controversial about it. I would note that the
25 patchwork of regulations in customary and traditional
26 use determinations for goat in Southeast Alaska is a
27 little bit peculiar and I think that the Council should
28 revisit the whole question of C&T for goat in Southeast
29 Alaska. But that isn't what's on the table right now
30 so I'd support this recognition of use of goat by
31 Gustavus.

32
33 Thank you.

34
35 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Bob.

36
37 Anyone else.

38
39 MR. KITKA: Mr. Chair.

40
41 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Harvey.

42
43 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
44 look at this as a bit of housekeeping. I think there's
45 an awful lot of C&T things out there that needs to be
46 housekept and we need to have Staff bring it forward so
47 we can get it all taken care of at once.

48
49 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thanks for that

50

1 Harvey.

2

3

MR. REIFENSTUHL: Call for question.

4

5

6

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Question's been called
for on Wildlife Proposal 18-12.

7

8

We'll just do a yea or nay.

9

10

11

All those in favor of adopting the
proposal say aye.

12

13

IN UNISON: Aye.

14

15

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Opposed.

16

17

(No opposing votes)

18

19

20

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Motion carries
unanimously.

21

22

Thank you.

23

24

25

Okay. Now, we're going to go on to
Wildlife Proposal 18-13, remove trap marking
requirements for Units 1 through 5.

26

27

28

Mr. Suminski.

29

30

31

MR. SUMINSKI: Good afternoon, Mr.
Chairman. Council members. Terry Suminski with the
Forest Service.

32

33

34

Proposal WP18-13 requests removing the
requirement that traps and snares be marked with
trapper identification in Southeast Alaska, Units 1
through 5 submitted by Mr. Mike Douville of Craig and
the analyst is Susan Oehlers.

35

36

37

38

39

40

Thank you.

41

42

43

MS. OEHLERS: Good afternoon, Mr.
Chair, Members of the Council, can you hear me okay?

44

45

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Yes, loud and clear.

46

47

Go ahead.

48

49

MS. OEHLERS: Okay, wonderful.

50

1 For the record my name is Susan
2 Oehlers. I am a wildlife and subsistence biologist
3 with the Forest Service out of Yakutat and I'll be
4 discussing, as Mr. Suminski stated, WP18-13. The
5 executive summary starts on Page 78 of your book and
6 the analysis starts on Page 281.

7
8 So for the discussion, the proponent,
9 Mike Douville, states that during the March 2016
10 statewide Alaska Board of Game meeting the requirement
11 to mark traps and snares under State regulations was
12 removed. This requirement is still currently in place
13 under Federal regulations.

14
15 The proponent asserts that requiring
16 Federally-qualified subsistence users to mark traps
17 while State regulations do not is unnecessary and
18 burdensome.

19
20 Trapping season for most furbearers
21 are aligned under State and Federal regulations in
22 Units 1 through 5. Early openings do occur for some
23 species under State regulations. The Southeast Alaska
24 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council submitted two
25 proposals WP18-3 and WP18-5 for the current regulatory
26 cycle that would align State and Federal wolf trapping
27 season dates in Units 1 through 3. I'll note that
28 these proposals were discussed and supported by this
29 Council during this meeting.

30
31 There is one species for which the
32 Federal season extends beyond the State season, that's
33 the beaver season which is through May 15th for Units 1
34 through 5 under Federal regulations and through April
35 30th under State regulations. Within Wrangell-St.
36 Elias National Park trapping is only allowed under
37 Federal regulations. Consequently, with the exception
38 of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and during those
39 two weeks of extended season for beaver trappers are
40 able to trap under the less restrictive regulations
41 during the concurrent Federal season and not be
42 required to mark their traps.

43
44 While there was rationale for initially
45 establishing this requirement and there are some
46 positive effects of trap marking as are discussed
47 further in the analysis, given predominately concurrent
48 State and Federal seasons, the requirement to mark
49 traps under Federal regulations is currently difficult
50

1 to report. Removing this regulation would align State
2 and Federal regulations and reduce confusion for users
3 and law enforcement. Within Wrangell-St. Elias
4 National Park where trapping is only allowed under
5 Federal regulations, adopting this proposal would
6 remove that requirement to mark traps in the Park.

7
8 The wolf technical committee
9 recommended that US Forest Service and Alaska
10 Department of Fish and Game Staff work with advisory
11 groups and law enforcement to determine need and
12 effectiveness of wolf trap marking requirements for
13 Unit 2 wolves under both State and Federal regulations.
14 Those discussions have not yet occurred.

15
16 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
17 support Proposal WP18-13.

18
19 And the justification is that adoption
20 of this proposal will align State and Federal
21 regulations related to trap markings throughout most
22 of Units 1 through 5. Requiring traps to be marked
23 does not prevent illegal trapping activity and in most
24 cases users are currently able to trap under the less
25 restrictive State regulations effectively rendering the
26 Federal marking requirement unenforceable. If
27 Federally-qualified users could avoid the requirement
28 by trapping under State regulations. There'll be
29 minimal effects to other users. There is no
30 anticipated conservation concerns with adopting this
31 proposal as there is no established correlation between
32 level of harvest and trap marking requirements.

33
34 Further discussions between State and
35 Federal managers, including law enforcement officers as
36 well as input from the (indiscernible - phone cuts out)

37
38 That concludes my presentation and I
39 welcome any comments.

40
41 Thank you.

42
43 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Susan. Any
44 questions.

45
46 (No comments)

47
48 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Seeing none, thank
49 you.

1 Was there any Board consultation with
2 tribes or ANCSA Corporations.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay. Do we have
7 Alaska Department of Fish and Game comments.

8
9 MR. BETHUNE: Mr. Chair. Members of
10 the Council. This is Steve Bethune with the Department
11 of Fish and Game in Sitka and I'll be providing the
12 State's brief comments on this proposal.

13
14 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, go ahead.

15
16 MR. BETHUNE: For the record my name is
17 Steve Bethune. I'm the area management biologist for
18 Game Management Unit 4 for the Alaska Department of
19 Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation. Unit
20 4 includes Admiralty, Baranof and Chichagof Islands.

21
22 So just a real brief history.

23
24 Trap marking initially was adopted by
25 the Board of Game in 2006 for Southeast Alaska in
26 response to concerns from Alaska Wildlife Troopers,
27 Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the public.
28 Concerns centered on traps being set in closed areas,
29 left after the season closed and pets and non-target
30 species being caught. The Federal Subsistence Board
31 followed suit in 2012 in an effort to align State and
32 Federal regulations and eliminate confusion but there
33 was not overwhelming support at that time by the
34 Regional Advisory Council.

35
36 As Susan mentioned, the State Board of
37 Game rescinded, in 2006, the trap marking requirement,
38 and this was at the request of the Alaska Trappers
39 Association. So currently we are in a situation where
40 Federal regulations are more restricted than State.
41 The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has no plans at
42 this point to attempt to revive the trap marking
43 requirement, a proposal to do so could come from Alaska
44 Wildlife Troopers or the general public.

45
46 The Department is neutral on this
47 proposal because it is unlikely to affect harvest or
48 result in a biological concern. However, trap marking
49 has proven to be a reasonable method for trappers to

50

1 identify their lines while maintaining confidentiality
2 in the past. In general, trapping can be a
3 controversial practice and trap marking may improve
4 trapper accountability and responsibility potentially
5 mitigating conflict between user groups.

6
7 Illegal or unwisely placed sets can
8 pose a threat to wildlife, pets and public safety.
9 ADF&G biologists from several game management units
10 have documented incidents of pets, deer, eagles, and
11 black bears being caught as well as target species
12 being wasted.

13
14 And, finally, trap marking makes it
15 easier for law enforcement to identify trappers for
16 enforcement or educational purposes, but, again, the
17 Department is neutral on this proposal.

18
19 That concludes our comments.

20
21 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Steve. Any
22 questions from the Council.

23
24 (No comments)

25
26 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Seeing none, thank you
27 for your presentation.

28
29 MR. BETHUNE: You bet.

30
31 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Are there any Federal
32 agency comments.

33
34 (No comments)

35
36 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Tribal entities.

37
38 (No comments)

39
40 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Other Regional
41 Councils, Fish and Game Advisory Committees or
42 Subsistence Resource Commissions.

43
44 MS. PERRY: Yes, Mr. Chair, we do have
45 one from the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park
46 Subsistence Resource Commission.

47
48 They recently met in Copper Center,
49 Alaska and submitted this comment.

Page 427

1 The Wrangell-St. Elias National Park
2 Subsistence Resource Commission supports Wildlife
3 Proposal 18-13. Aligning State and Federal regulations
4 simplifies the regulations and reduces the potential
5 for confusion.

6
7 End of comment.

8
9 Thank you.

10
11 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Ms. Perry.
12 Are there any written public comments.

13
14 MS. PERRY: There are, Mr. Chair.

15
16 The written comments on this proposal
17 begin on Page 287 of the meeting book.

18
19 One comment was received from Curtis
20 Donald Thomas of Ketchikan addressing all Southeast
21 proposals and, key view points were that attempts were
22 being made to fix a problem that does not exist and he
23 expressed concerns regarding new classes of citizens
24 with special hunting rights being created, residency
25 criteria and the ability of some Alaskans to harvest 20
26 halibut a day.

27
28 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Ms. Perry.

29
30 Is there any public testimony in the
31 room.

32
33 (No comments)

34
35 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Is there any public
36 testimony on the telephone.

37
38 (No comments)

39
40 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Hearing none, what's
41 the wish of the Council.

42
43 Mr. Yeager.

44
45 MR. YEAGER: I move to adopt Wildlife
46 Proposal WP18-13.

47
48 MR. HOWARD: Second.

1 CHAIRMAN BANGS: It's been moved to
2 adopt the proposal by Mr. Yeager and seconded by Mr.
3 Howard.

4
5 Thank you.

6
7 Discussion.

8
9 Mr. Schroeder.

10
11 MR. SCHROEDER: Just in the interest of
12 moving things along. I think this is an example of a
13 lot of proposals we get where because our cycle is
14 different from the Board of Game cycle, to align
15 regulations, which is desirable for the public, we have
16 to act after the Board of Game acts, and hopefully the
17 Board of Game acts after we act. So I think this is a
18 pretty straightforward proposal of just aligning
19 regulations.

20
21 And I could go through a quick
22 justification.

23
24 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Go ahead.

25
26 MR. SCHROEDER: Which is that there is
27 no conservation concern. This matter was thoroughly
28 addressed presumably by the Alaska Board of Game and we
29 haven't heard that there's any conservation concern has
30 been raised.

31
32 We believe that there is substantial
33 evidence supporting this. Mainly we're doing a
34 housekeeping proposal but I'm not aware of trap lines
35 being traditionally marked with tags either. I think
36 that this proposal -- adopting this proposal would have
37 a minor beneficial effect on subsistence needs and
38 users by taking one requirement off trappers and
39 there's no restrictions to other users based on
40 adopting this proposal.

41
42 Thank you.

43
44 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you for that
45 Bob.

46
47 Any other discussion.

48
49 MR. KITKA: Question.

50

1 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Question's been called
2 for by Mr. Kitka. All those in favor of adopting the
3 proposal say aye.

4
5 IN UNISON: Aye.

6
7 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Opposed.

8
9 (No opposing votes)

10
11 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Motion carries.

12
13 Thank you.

14
15 Okay, moving on to Proposal WP18-51,
16 modify bear baiting restrictions to align with State
17 regulations.

18
19 Ms. Kenner.

20
21 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
22 Again, my name is Pippa Kenner and I am an
23 anthropologist with the Office of Subsistence
24 Management in Anchorage. And the analysis for Proposal
25 WP18-51 begins on Page 291 of your Council book.

26
27 Okay.

28
29 Hello, Mr. Chair and members of the
30 Council.

31
32 Proposal 18-51 was submitted by the
33 Eastern Interior Council and requests that the Federal
34 statewide bear baiting restrictions be aligned with
35 State regulations, specifically the use of
36 biodegradable materials. The proponent states that
37 current Federal bear baiting restrictions are more
38 restrictive than the States and do not provide for a
39 Federal subsistence priority. Aligning State and
40 Federal baiting restrictions would reduce regulatory
41 complexity and user confusion and allow baiting with
42 items such as dog food, bake foods et cetera that have
43 traditionally been used as bear bait by Federally-
44 qualified subsistence users and are currently allowed
45 under State regulations.

46
47 Federal regulations for bear baiting
48 were adopted from State regulations in 1990 and have
49 not been modified since.

50

1 Now, there's a couple of exceptions on
2 Federal public lands to the Federal Board's regulation
3 and they are these two.
4

5 In 2015 the National Park Service
6 published a final rule prohibiting the take of black
7 and brown bears over bait on National Preserves under
8 State regulations, and there were some exceptions to
9 that, in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park, and in 2017
10 the Park Service published a final rule limiting the
11 types of bait that may be used for taking bears under
12 Federal regulations to Native fish or wildlife remains
13 with some exceptions for the Wrangell St. Elias
14 National Park and Preserve.
15

16 Black and brown bears have been
17 traditionally and are still harvested and utilized
18 across much of Alaska using various methods.
19

20 If this proposal is adopted Federally-
21 qualified subsistence users could use any biodegradable
22 material as well as scent lures at registered bear
23 baiting station on lands administered by the US Fish
24 and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management and
25 the Forest Service.
26

27 As bear bait is limited to Native fish
28 and wildlife remains on National Park Lands, adoption
29 of this proposal would not affect Park Service lands
30 with some exceptions in Wrangell-St. Elias.
31

32 Adoption of this proposal would reduce
33 regulatory complexity and user confusion by aligning
34 State and Federal regulations and as the requested
35 changes are already permitted under State regulations,
36 no appreciable differences in bear populations,
37 harvest, subsistence uses or habituation to human foods
38 are expected from adopting this proposal.
39

40 The OSM preliminary conclusion is a
41 modification of what was proposed. And the
42 modification is to define scent lure in Federal
43 regulations and also substituting the word, wildlife,
44 for terms game, fur animal and small game as these
45 terms are not defined under Federal regulation, but are
46 included in the Federal definition of wildlife.
47

48 I'd like to tell you that six Councils
49 have already acted on this proposal, five, Bristol Bay,
50

1 Yukon Kuskokwim Delta, Western Interior, Seward
2 Peninsula, Northwest Arctic supported the proposal as
3 modified by OSM. And, one, Kodiak-Aleutians took no
4 action because bear baiting isn't allowed in their
5 region on Federal public lands.

6
7 Thank you.

8
9 I'm done with my presentation. And
10 Lisa Maas, who is the author of the analysis is on the
11 teleconference and we're both available to answer any
12 questions you might have.

13
14 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Pippa.

15
16 Cathy.

17
18 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
19 Could you repeat the list of the Councils that
20 supported it and whether or not they supported the
21 original proposal or the modified.....

22
23 MS. KENNER: Thank you for the.....

24
25 MS. NEEDHAM:proposal.

26
27 MS. KENNER:question. Through
28 the Chair.

29
30 The Councils that supported the OSM
31 modification are the Bristol Bay, Yukon Kuskokwim
32 Delta, Western Interior Alaska, Seward Peninsula, and
33 the Northwest Arctic Councils. They all supported the
34 OSM modification.

35
36 CHAIRMAN BANGS: The other Councils
37 haven't addressed it yet?

38
39 MS. KENNER: Correct. Only Kodiak-
40 Aleutians is the other Council that has addressed it.
41 Bristol Bay just addressed it, I think, this morning.

42
43 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Any other questions
44 from the Council.

45
46 Don.

47
48 MR. HERNANDEZ: Do we have registered
49 bear baiting stations here in Southeast and, if so, do
50

1 you know how many and where they're located?

2

3 MS. KENNER: Thank you for that
4 question.

5

6 (Pause)

7

8 MS. MAAS: So, Pippa, this is Lisa, if
9 you want me to answer that question.

10

11 MS. KENNER: Thank you very much, Lisa,
12 and also we have an Alaska Department of Fish and
13 Game.....

14

15 MS. MAAS: Oh, okay.

16

17 MS. KENNER:expert who's arrived
18 at the table. So why don't you go first and then we
19 can ask him.

20

21 MS. MAAS: Oh, so I was just going to
22 say we don't have numbers on registered bait stations
23 but there are units in the Southeast Region where bear
24 baiting is permitted under Federal regulations.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you.

27

28 MR. SCOTT: Through the Chair. Member
29 Hernandez.

30

31 Bear baiting is actually a very widely
32 used methods and means for taking black bears in
33 Southeast Alaska. I don't have the total number.
34 There's a few units that it does not occur in. Unit
35 1C, but as memory serves me that may be the only one
36 that it doesn't occur in in the region.

37

38 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Scott.

39

40 Any other questions.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Seeing none, thank you
45 for the presentation.

46

47 Was there any consultation from tribes
48 or ANCSA Corporations.

49

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN BANGS: None. Alaska
4 Department of Fish and Game comments.

5

6 MR. SCHUMACHER: Hello, this is Tom
7 Schumacher with the Department of Fish and Game.

8

9 I have five pages of written comments
10 here which I'll be happy to read to you in a slow clear
11 voice.....

12

13 (Laughter)

14

15 MR. SCHUMACHER:or we can just go
16 to Page 5.

17

18 The Department supports this. It's in
19 algin with State regulations and won't result in any
20 change in harvest or conservation concerns.

21

22 So the Department is in support.

23

24 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you. Any
25 questions from the Council.

26

27 MR. HOWARD: Mr. Chairman.

28

29 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Mr. Howard.

30

31 MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
32 This brings my mind back to when we were considering
33 the slingbow as part of being allowed to use as
34 subsistence, I mean now I'm wondering when bear baiting
35 was allowed, when they started allowing that to happen
36 I don't know anyone that uses bear bait to hunt, other
37 than maybe a guide or someone.

38

39 When did the State start allowing that
40 to happen?

41

42 MR. SCHUMACHER: Bear baiting, I don't
43 know when that regulation was first adopted. It's been
44 going on as long as I've been around and working in
45 this career, which is 30-some years.

46

47 MR. HOWARD: A followup to that is
48 we're introducing dog food and syrup and everything
49 else into an environment that doesn't naturally exist.

50

1 I mean according to what I'm reading, I guess, I mean
2 dog food's allowed and syrup.

3
4 I see this in the landfill at home, so
5 I understand why the bears are there, but.....

6
7 MR. SCHUMACHER: I think it's been
8 proven to be effective baits for bears and if, you
9 know, people want to use that to attract bears to a
10 site it's been deemed acceptable at the Board of Game.
11 So, you know, that's all I can tell you about State
12 regulations.

13
14 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you. Any other
15 questions.

16
17 Don. Oh, clarification by Mr. Scott.

18
19 MR. SCOTT: I just wanted to add on to
20 what Tom mentioned, through the Chair, Member Howard,
21 there's also some very rigid requirements for clean up
22 and containment in these bear bait sites, so it's not
23 actually left into the field.

24
25 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you for that.

26
27 Mr. Hernandez.

28
29 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
30 Chairman. That kind of is somewhat part of the
31 question I was going to ask. So there are like
32 specific sites where this is allowed, it's not just
33 something you can do anywhere you feel like it?

34
35 MR. SCHUMACHER: No. Under State
36 regulations, there are requirements you have to be so
37 far from a dwelling, so far from a road, schools,
38 things like that and, of course, you have to have land
39 owner permission.

40
41 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you. It was
42 mentioned in the testimony there from the Feds that
43 they referred to registered sites and I just wondered
44 if that's -- if there is such thing as a registered
45 site or just restrictions on where you can do it.

46
47 MR. SCHUMACHER: Yes, and the State
48 program sites are registered.

49
50

1 MS. KENNER: And the Federal -- this is
2 Pippa Kenner with OSM, and the Federal regulations
3 require you to have a State -- to register with the
4 State.

5
6 MR. SCHUMACHER: There are also posting
7 requirements. So you have to put a sign up that it is
8 a registered bear bait station.

9
10 MR. SCOTT: In addition we have bear
11 bait clinics now that are required for most areas in
12 the state that allow black bear baiting.

13
14 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah, just one other
15 followup. Seeing as how, you know, we have had
16 testimony here during the course of the meeting about,
17 you know, bears becoming more of a problem here in the
18 region, you know, I don't know if that's -- people are
19 expressing those same concerns statewide or is it
20 something that's more prevalent here in Southeast
21 Alaska, but as far as the allowance for a place where
22 you can bait for bears, is there some kind of a public
23 process where people have a chance to comment on
24 whether or not they want to have bear baiting stations
25 in specific locations.

26
27 MR. SCHUMACHER: Other than the Board
28 of Game process it lays out where you can't do it, I
29 can't think of any.

30
31 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you.

32
33 Mr. Schroeder.

34
35 MR. SCHROEDER: He answered.

36
37 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Any other questions
38 for the Department.

39
40 (No comments)

41
42 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, gentlemen.

43
44 Are there any other Federal agency
45 comments or tribal entities.

46
47 (No comments)

48
49 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Other Regional

50

1 Councils, Fish and Game Advisory Committees or
2 Subsistence Resource Commission.

3

4 MS. PERRY: Yes, Chair. For the record
5 this is DeAnna Perry, Council coordinator.

6

7 I just received an email from Barbara
8 Cellarius. The Wrangell-St. Elias Resource Commission
9 has just today sent in a comment on Wildlife Proposal
10 18-51, so this is not in your book but I'll read it
11 into the record.

12

13 The Wrangell-St. Elias National Park
14 Subsistence Resource Commission supports Wildlife
15 Proposal 18-51 as modified by the Office of Subsistence
16 Management. Aligning State and Federal definitions of
17 bait will simplify the regulations and make them easier
18 for users to understand.

19

20 And that's the end of the comment,
21 Chair.

22

23 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Ms. Perry.

24

25 Are there any written public comments.

26

27 MS. PERRY: Yes, there is, Mr. Chair.

28

29 The written public comments received
30 are in your meeting book and begin on Page 298 for
31 Wildlife Proposal 18-51.

32

33 Two written public comments in
34 opposition were received from Fairbanks residents
35 Francis Mauer and Sharon Alden.

36

37 Viewpoints included, allowing use of
38 human food items will habituate bears to humans and
39 contribute to human/bear conflicts. This presents an
40 ethical as well safety issue. Federal baiting
41 regulations should not be aligned with outdated State
42 of Alaska regulations.

43

44 That's a summary of the public comments
45 received on this proposal, WP18-51.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Ms. Perry.

50

1 Is there any public testimony in the
2 room.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Is there any public
7 testimony on the phone line.

8
9 (No comments)

10
11 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Hearing none, what's
12 the wish of the Council.

13
14 Cathy.

15
16 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

17
18 I move to adopt Wildlife Proposal 18-51
19 as modified by OSM, which is written on Page 295 of our
20 Council book.

21
22 MR. YEAGER: Second.

23
24 CHAIRMAN BANGS: It's been moved by
25 Member Needham to adopt the proposal and seconded by
26 Mr. Yeager.

27
28 Discussion.

29
30 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Mr. Schroeder.

31
32 MR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Chairman. This
33 seems to be another case where we're aligning Federal
34 regulations to match up with State regulations. At
35 issue here is not whether or not bear baiting takes
36 place, the issue is what baits are permissible.

37
38 The proposal was advanced by a Regional
39 Council and has received the support of five -- the
40 five Regional Councils that have met to this point.

41
42 We don't have a great deal of bear
43 baiting in Southeast, particularly subsistence bear
44 baiting, but I believe that this -- adopting this
45 proposal will remove unnecessary confusion in the minds
46 of those people who may wish to bear bait. We've heard
47 no indication that there's a conservation concern with
48 this proposal. The review suggests that this is a
49 reasonable way to proceed if you are doing bear baiting

50

1 and this may have some slight benefit to subsistence
2 users. No users are restricted by adopting this
3 regulation.

4
5 Thank you. Mr. Chair.

6
7 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Mr.
8 Schroeder.

9
10 Any other discussion.

11
12 (No comments)

13
14 MR. YEAGER: Question.

15
16 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Question's been called
17 for by Mr. Yeager.

18
19 All those in favor of the proposal
20 WP18-51 say aye.

21
22 IN UNISON: Aye.

23
24 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Opposed.

25
26 MS. PHILLIPS: Aye.

27
28 CHAIRMAN BANGS: We have one nay, and
29 the motion carries.

30
31 MS. PHILLIPS: One nay.

32
33 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay. We're going to
34 move along to Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program.

35
36 Cathy.

37
38 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
39 I'd just like to make a comment for the record.

40
41 Our proposal process is one of the most
42 important things that we do and as we can see through
43 the process that we've worked through the last couple
44 of days we really heavily rely on our Staff, our Staff
45 analysis and the hard work that they do. And I really
46 want to make sure that on the record we thank the
47 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of
48 Wildlife, Staff for being here and for taking the time
49 to present us information and answer questions as we
50

1 go.

2
3 I've made an observation through this
4 process that I'd like to bring forward and that is that
5 in the past we've also had a lot of Federal Staff here
6 and I understand we have Federal Staff here, but we
7 don't seem to have very many of our subsistence
8 biologists here that are Federal Staff as shown by the
9 case that many of those individuals called in on the
10 telephone to give their Staff analysis on these
11 proposals. And I want to note that I think that that
12 process is extremely hard to do but those guys really
13 champion being able to provide their analysis over the
14 telephone, clearly and being able to answer questions.

15
16 One thing I'm a little bit concerned
17 about as we move into our fisheries regulatory cycle is
18 not having that Staff here to be available to answer
19 questions and stuff as we go. We have conversations on
20 the side where we can ask additional questions as we
21 move through this process and that is a very helpful
22 piece of it and in the past the Division of Fish hasn't
23 necessarily been involved from the State and so I don't
24 know that we can expect the same amount of support from
25 them like we saw from the Division of Wildlife at this
26 meeting. And if that's the case then not having
27 Federal Staff here is going to hinder us in some of the
28 work that we do.

29
30 And so if the reason why the Staff, our
31 Federal subsistence biologists aren't in the room this
32 time is because of a funding issue, I think we need to
33 raise that concern higher up to the Federal Subsistence
34 Board to assure that we have the funding to make sure
35 that the Staff that provide us with useful information
36 that we need are here to help us as we go through these
37 regulatory processes.

38
39 And I just wanted to be able to state
40 that on the record, and, again, thanks to the Staff
41 that were here and have helped us work really hard over
42 the last couple days.

43
44 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you for that
45 Cathy. That was very well spoken.

46
47 Mr. Schroeder.

48
49 MR. SCHROEDER: Just very quickly, Mr.

50

1 Chair, as we finish with proposals.

2

3 I'd like to report that the committee
4 that was charged with developing intent language for
5 our Unit 2 wolf proposal met this morning and worked up
6 an approach for what our intent letter will be. I
7 don't think that we need to go through that at this
8 time. We were following items that were in the record
9 but I wanted to report to the Council.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you. Did you
12 want to cover those points or you're good with what you
13 did. It's points that we had covered in discussion.

14

15 MR. SCHROEDER: I don't believe we
16 added anything significant but our discussion was free
17 and wide ranging and so what we basically did was pull
18 things from the discussion and that's what will be in
19 our intent language.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you. Thank you,
22 Mr. Schroeder.

23

24 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chairman.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Patty.

27

28 MS. PHILLIPS: I don't think it would
29 take very long to read the points that we brought up
30 this morning and Mr. Schroeder has them pretty well
31 spelled out just so the rest of the RAC knows the
32 points we've brought forward.

33

34 CHAIRMAN BANGS: That's a very good
35 idea Patty. Go ahead, Mr. Schroeder.

36

37 MR. SCHROEDER: I think I can do it
38 pretty quickly.

39

40 These points aren't in order so there's
41 not a logical flow here.

42

43 Point one. The Council will submit a
44 proposal to the Board of Game reflecting our
45 recommendation.

46

47 Point two. Because of the timing cycle
48 of the Board of Game and the Federal Board, the Board
49 of Game will not be able to act on the proposal we

50

1 would submit in time for the 18/19 wolf harvesting
2 season. Our intention is that there will be action
3 taken to raise the quota up to 30 percent for the 18/29
4 season, that's next year. In terms of the
5 implementation, we request that authority be delegated
6 to the Craig Ranger for working on the quota. Setting
7 the quota would be up to 30 percent. We call for an
8 open process with stakeholders, of course Alaska
9 Department of Fish and Game and Forest Service,
10 appropriate Staff, but equally important local
11 harvesters on Prince of Wales who provide TEK
12 information as well as the tribes who strongly support
13 this proposal. The four tribes, we note that there is
14 strong support from all four tribes on Prince of Wales
15 Island, Hydaburg, Craig, Klawock and Kasaan.

16
17 A further point is, we'll mention that
18 a harvest guideline is specifically a harvest
19 guideline, it is not a mortality guideline.

20
21 We'll have some discussion of non-legal
22 mortality. It is the opinion of the committee that
23 worked on this, and I believe of the Council, really
24 that this is not a major factor in determining what's
25 going on with the wolf population.

26
27 We'll say something about how resilient
28 wolf population is and note that the best available
29 science for setting an HGL is relying on old data for a
30 species that can possibly double its size in a year.

31
32 The impetus for this proposal is to
33 provide greater subsistence opportunity for taking
34 wolves, including the ability to bring new people in
35 and particularly younger people who will have the
36 opportunity to do this.

37
38 We don't believe that non-Federally-
39 qualified hunters or trappers will be harmed.

40
41 Another point, we see this as providing
42 management flexibility and the ability for management
43 to respond to increasing wolf numbers by having the 30
44 percent in there. Without that in there, the
45 Department would be bound to wait until the next
46 regulatory cycle of the Board of Game to get a change
47 or do something rather extreme using emergency orders
48 or out of sequence proposals.

49
50

1 We heard a good deal -- we'll have a
2 point that talks about best science on the kind of
3 global side. We heard that 30 percent of wolves can be
4 taken on a sustainable basis from a healthy population.
5 We value equally the knowledge of local trappers and
6 hunters who provide us with on the ground information,
7 which certainly is more timely than getting data from a
8 year ago or a year and a half ago.
9

10 We note that TEK being sort of the
11 umbrella for dealing with local tribes, communities and
12 subsistence hunters. That that's moved along real
13 well, that hunters are providing tissue samples to the
14 Department. A key ingredient this last year was
15 cooperative work with Hydaburg. And we also have
16 something -- if you think of it, to put a scientific
17 name on TEK, what we have is kind of the Delphi
18 approach of where you ask a number of people who are
19 experts what's going on and they give you their best
20 estimate, summing things up and what we get from that
21 from Prince of Wales is that the population is healthy
22 and growing.
23

24 We suggest and encourage the Department
25 and Federal Staff to work toward a population goal for
26 wolves on Prince of Wales so that we're not bouncing
27 around endlessly on is it 20 percent, is it 30 percent,
28 and so we'll have some discussion on that. That
29 probably needs to become some part of a management
30 plan, so that's a little bit out of purview, it's not
31 something you do at a three day meeting.
32

33 We believe that for 18/19 season, yes,
34 there will need to be a separate quota and as I said
35 that quota would be set with stakeholders and with the
36 Department and Forest Service on the island. And while
37 we realize that this creates a little bit of work for
38 people but that's what joint management is about, guys.
39 Probably what would happen if this proceeds is that the
40 State would close its season, which it would have to do
41 when it's target was met and that would leave a
42 residual number of wolves that could be harvested under
43 Federal regulations.
44

45 And I think my last point is that the
46 longer term desire, in addition to having the
47 population goal established, is that the State and
48 Federal season harvest guideline level and everything
49 else align.
50

1 If I missed anything.

2

3 MS. PHILLIPS: Harvest range.

4

5 MR. SCHROEDER: Oh, the harvest range,
6 you mean the population size.

7

8 MS. PHILLIPS: (Nods affirmatively)

9

10 MR. SCHROEDER: We have just to put out
11 something to begin discussion, our group, based on the
12 expertise of people who know Prince of Wales thought
13 that that range should be somewhere between 150 and
14 200. We'd anticipate that there would be a lot of
15 juggling over that with the local experts and the
16 people who crunch numbers.

17

18 That's it.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Mr.
23 Schroeder. And I think I can speak on behalf of the
24 rest of the Council, that we really appreciate you guys
25 that were on that work group that spent the extra time
26 to put that together for us, thank you.

27

28 Okay.

29

30 Moving along to Fisheries Resource
31 Monitoring Program.

32

33 MR. MUSSLEWHITE: Yes, Mr. Chairman and
34 members of the Council. My name is Jake Musslewhite,
35 I'm a fisheries biologist with the Forest Service here
36 at Juneau Ranger District.

37

38 So I just wanted to give you a quick
39 rundown of the 2017 results, preliminary results for
40 our sockeye monitoring projects throughout Southeast
41 Alaska and I'm going to refer to this sheet, which was
42 a supplementary handout, so hopefully you folks have
43 those close at hand, or we can get them to you, if not.

44

45 Yes, we've got them up on the screen
46 there.

47

48 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Yes, Ms. Perry.

49

50

1 MS. PERRY: I just wanted to let all
2 the Council members know that, is, in the back of your
3 blue folder under supplemental materials towards the
4 back.

5
6 Thank you.

7
8 And it's also on the screen.

9
10 MR. MUSSLEWHITE: Yes, thank you. And
11 thanks to Rob Cross in Sitka for putting this together.

12
13 Starting with sort of the big picture,
14 the first graph on the top there shows both the five
15 year and 10 year averages for escapement, and I guess
16 the key feature you'll see there is that -- with the
17 exception of Falls Lake, almost all the five year
18 averages are lower than that longer 10 year average.
19 So there's sort of a broad scale downward trend in
20 escapements at the places where we are monitoring
21 sockeye.

22
23 And I'm going to kind of take things a
24 little bit sort of north to south here, system by
25 system, and give you kind of a quick snapshot.
26 Starting at Neva Lake, which is located at Excursion
27 Inlet, so it'll be the one on the left there, we
28 actually saw some improvement there this year, after it
29 hit an all time low in 2015. Kind of some of the key
30 factors there, the bag limit there had been 40 for a
31 number of years and in 2016 was reduced to 10 so we may
32 be seeing some effects of that regulatory change. So
33 hopefully that trend continues.

34
35 Things are a little grim there at Klag
36 Bay. It was the lowest harvest on record, as well as
37 the second lowest escapement ever, and three of the
38 four worst escapement has been these last three years.
39 Possibly contributing to that would be pretty intense
40 seine fisheries in District 13 kind of right at their
41 door step this year, there was a very strong king
42 salmon return to the area and that got fished hard.

43
44 So moving down to our Chatham Strait
45 stocks. We've got Kook Lake and Sitkho Lake and also
46 Kanalku Lake, all sort of in the same neighborhood
47 there. Also pretty low. Kook Lake was under 2,000,
48 one of the lower that we've seen. And Sitkho Lake also
49 one of the lower that we've seen kind of over the life

50

1 of those projects. Contributing to those, I think, are
2 two things. One, you'll see the 2013 escapement was
3 very low and so that was one of the parent years for
4 those two -- so low escapement in 2013 contributed to a
5 low escapement in 2017. Also we had fairly intense
6 seining fisheries in Icy and Chatham Straits this year,
7 which seems to also reduce escapement to sockeye
8 systems in those areas.

9
10 Similarly Kanalku Lake nearby, very
11 poor return on the lake there of under 500 fish,
12 despite having fairly good hydrologic conditions for
13 passage over the falls at Kanalku, which is always an
14 issue there.

15
16 Keep going down one more.

17
18 Yeah, so it's there on the left now.

19
20 So, you know, Kanalku is extremely
21 important to the people at Angoon and had been to, you
22 know, down to pretty low levels down in the mid-2000s
23 and it had been kind of -- seemed to be recovering well
24 and last year it was, you know, really good escapement
25 so it was very disappointing to see a poor escapement
26 in 2017.

27
28 For some good news, we had a good
29 return to Falls Lake this year, which continued a trend
30 of pretty strong returns over the past several years.

31
32 And then continuing south, for more
33 good news, we had a pretty good return to Klawock Lake,
34 which was nice to see after, you know, several years of
35 poor returns. Those seiners that were busy fishing
36 District 13 outside of Klag Bay were not fishing
37 District 3 and 4 off of Klawock Lake so that may have
38 helped Klawock Lake returns to some degree.

39
40 And also Eek Lake had, you know, about
41 300 fish. Relatively new project so hard to determine
42 long-term trends there. I believe the harvest is
43 roughly equal to the escapement there.

44
45 And then one more down we've got --
46 down at Hetta Lake also a fairly poor return.

47
48 Go one more down.

49
50

1 A fairly poor return compared to
2 previous years at Hetta Lake.

3
4 All right.

5
6 And I did that as fast as I could but I
7 would be happy to answer any questions to the best of
8 my ability.

9
10 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you. Yes, Patty.

11
12 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
13 So I see in Klag Bay that the numbers are low and
14 there's a companion system in Ford Arm (ph) where the
15 State, I guess, monitors, do you do any comparison like
16 between the two, this is a Federal monitor and then
17 Ford Arm is a State monitor. Are you familiar with
18 that?

19
20 MR. MUSSLEWHITE: Yeah, through the
21 Chair. Ms. Phillips. I am somewhat familiar with
22 that, it's a little out of my territory. Klag Bay is
23 actually monitored by Sitka Tribe of Alaska so not my
24 project. I don't know how those escapements to those
25 systems compare but that'd probably be a good thing to
26 look at especially, you know, when we're looking for
27 factors involving these low escapements here at Klag
28 Bay to see if they're tracking at other nearby systems
29 or if it's isolated at Klag Bay.

30
31 Yes, excellent idea.

32
33 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Go ahead, Patty.

34
35 MS. PHILLIPS: Also on, I mean it's
36 like sometimes these issues that come before us and,
37 forgive me for bringing this up, Mr. Chair, but the
38 ETJ, I mean where we put forth proposals to the Board
39 of Fish and then they took some sort of actions and
40 then so how are we, as a RAC, to evaluate that down the
41 road instead of just thinking it's swept under the rug.
42 And so I'm seeing on Kanalku, you know, with these
43 escapement numbers that it doesn't look good so, you
44 know, how can -- can we evaluate that the actions taken
45 by the Board of Fish were enough or is there further
46 recommendations made.

47
48 I mean is that how we are to use this
49 data that comes before us or what.

50

1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2
3 MR. MUSSLEWHITE: Yes. Well, I think
4 that probably illustrates the importance of continuing
5 with these projects so that, you know, the Council has
6 the information they need to make those sort of
7 decisions. We did see, you know, poor escapements to
8 Chatham Straits, you know, systems, Kook Lake, Basket
9 Bay, Sitkho and it was a year with pretty intensive
10 seine fisheries in Chatham Strait. And we've seen --
11 you know, well it's difficult to directly correlate,
12 you know, we don't have any hard bycatch numbers in
13 those seine fisheries, we see when -- the fact that
14 pink salmon abundance has fluctuated in even odd years
15 and seine effort follows that and we see a
16 corresponding pattern in sockeye escapements following
17 the amount of fishing effort, you know, it makes it
18 pretty clear that it does play a big role, if that
19 helps.

20
21 Thank you.

22
23 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you. Mr.
24 Howard.

25
26 MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
27 parent year of 2017 sockeye for Kanalku, what -- is
28 there anything in your data that says that perhaps the
29 seiners intercepted the parent year of the 2017 sockeye
30 to Kanalku?

31
32 MR. MUSSLEWHITE: Through the Chair.
33 Mr. Howard. No, we don't have much in the way of like
34 direct, you know, estimates of seine interception of
35 any particular sockeye stock. The State did do a
36 genetic study several years ago that, you know, did --
37 showed kind of the degree some of these small stocks
38 are being caught in Icy and Chatham Straits, but they
39 really didn't get enough samples to, I guess, really
40 fully answer some of those questions.

41
42 And that was a fairly, you know, big
43 expensive one-time study, it's definitely not something
44 that could be done on a year by year basis. So we just
45 kind of have to guess the best we can.

46
47 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Followup, Mr. Howard.

48
49 MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. A

50

1 couple of things that Patty had mentioned opens up a
2 whole lot of other questions. But she mentioned
3 monitoring.
4

5 To me, this takes me to the commercial,
6 of the guy that's sitting in the bank and the bank's
7 being robbed. It's like I'm just here to let you know
8 the bank's being robbed, by the way the bank's being
9 robbed. And why I say that is because there's no
10 action to any of this, we're monitoring it but we're
11 not taking any action to ensure there's a healthy
12 stock. According to Alaska statutes you're supposed to
13 manage for abundance. This isn't managing for
14 abundance. Putting all the pieces to the puzzle on the
15 table isn't managing for abundance.
16

17 There's a big player that affects this
18 room that nobody wants to talk about, that affects
19 these numbers. I get that. I understand that. I've
20 had conversations with them.
21

22 But at the end of the day, also in
23 Alaska statutes this resource belongs to everyone and
24 the subsistence user takes one percent of this
25 resource, less than that. You've heard a gentleman
26 talk earlier about I could take my kids up the bay and
27 we can go get -- try to catch sockeyes and end up
28 taking home more than 25 in a day, according to the
29 sportfish regulation, that's just one user group.
30

31 You know, until we do something and we
32 allow the Staff to make recommendations on what's
33 impacting these resources and take that recommendation
34 to heart, we're just monitoring.
35

36 There's a direct correlation with the
37 seining and these numbers. I can say that because I
38 sit in Chatham and I was pretty happy with the -- as
39 were the tribal members, were happy with the returns
40 over the last couple years, but then this year we
41 watched the seiners come into Chatham and these numbers
42 just dropped, significantly.
43

44 Another thing that's on my mind is
45 Ketchikan. I have friends that work as deckhands on
46 seiners and they were in Ketchikan. They told me, we
47 only fish three days a week because the Canadians are
48 worried about escapement of their sockeye. So on the
49 one hand the message I'm getting is Angoon's little
50

1 puddle of sockeye doesn't matter so we'll leave the
2 seining wide open. Oh, but let's not do that to the
3 Canadians.
4

5 So I think we need to take a look at
6 this whole -- I appreciate this, thank you for doing
7 this and you guys do really good work. But until we're
8 allowed to do something with this, you know, you're
9 just punching the clock. And I really appreciate that
10 we have these numbers.
11

12 Because I've been in this longer than I
13 probably should, I don't agree with how the ETJ
14 petition was settled, because what happened in that
15 process, somebody that doesn't even live in Angoon
16 made a deal and that deal made someone else happen, not
17 Angoon. The deal was to close areas that have already
18 been closed, to open it, and I've had this discussion
19 with a member -- I don't see him here now, but the
20 discussion then was -- he said that they don't open
21 seining until all of Angoon sockeye is gone. That was
22 -- this guy is an expert, he's got a degree in
23 something but -- and then the next conversation I had
24 with him, well, why can't we do things like they do in
25 Bristol Bay, these are facts and I want this on record,
26 finally, that in the same discussion I asked, well, can
27 we do the same thing they do in Bristol Bay, when
28 enough fish make it over the falls into the lake and we
29 have a wide open fishery -- keep in mind this gentleman
30 said, that the seiners don't fish until our sockeye are
31 gone, which means they open it in the middle of August
32 -- also keep in mind I salmon seined Chatham for seven
33 years and the gentleman I fished for got a million
34 pounds of year so we had it down to a science, so the
35 guy says, no, we can't do that because Kanalku has an
36 early, middle and late run. His first statement was
37 the seiners don't fish until all the Kanalku sockeye
38 are gone. So his statement and -- states otherwise.
39

40 Mr. Chairman, I'd like to see something
41 done with these numbers and it addressed on the same
42 standing they used when they closed the Ketchikan area
43 for the Canadian sockeye.
44

45 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
46

47 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you for that
48 Albert and I think that emphasizes how important the
49 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program is because it
50

1 gives us a baseline and it gives us an idea of what
2 happens as a result.

3
4 So I think that's why we need to
5 encourage the funding for these projects.

6
7 Is there any comments or questions.

8
9 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.

10
11 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Go ahead.

12
13 MS. PHILLIPS: So you show escapement,
14 but there's no line that shows, you know, the preferred
15 amount for escapement for a system, is that -- why is
16 that?

17
18 MR. MUSSLEWHITE: Well, we haven't
19 actually set any like escapement goals in any of these
20 lakes. So there -- you know we could kind of get some
21 -- maybe a preferred escapement range or something like
22 that, but there is no formal escapement goals set in
23 any of these systems that I'm aware of, so, yeah,
24 there's no line to draw, no.

25
26 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Any other questions.

27
28 MR. HOWARD: Mr. Chairman.

29
30 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Mr. Howard.

31
32 MR. HOWARD: A followup to Patty.
33 Looking at the numbers, could you come up with an
34 escapement number for each system that will make each
35 system sustainable?

36
37 MR. MUSSLEWHITE: Yeah, one of the
38 things that we're lacking, we're actually like kind of
39 formally making escapement goal, is that we don't have
40 estimates of harvest in other fisheries so we don't
41 actually know the actual -- the recruitment, you know,
42 that would result from various escapement levels. It's
43 sort of a missing piece of the puzzle that we'd need to
44 really do the math on that. What we can do is say,
45 look at terminal returns resulting from various
46 escapements and kind of see where the sweet spot is,
47 you know, on that, but without good estimates of catch
48 in various fisheries, such as the seine fisheries, we
49 can't really do a, you know, a full job in that.

50

1 Because that may vary when you don't really know by --
2 and you don't know by how much, if that makes sense.

3
4 So you can get a good idea of what
5 might do -- for instance, you know, we see in the Falls
6 Lake that even relatively small escapements to Falls
7 Lake still result in fairly good returns so that maybe
8 even, you know, slightly under a thousand fish might be
9 actually perfectly adequate. The strong returns that
10 we're seeing in Falls Lake now are from, you know, kind
11 of roughly 800 to 1000 fish escapement so, you know, we
12 can kind of ballpark some things like that, but a full
13 on regular escapement goal isn't really possible in
14 most of these systems.

15
16 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Are there any
17 other questions from the Council for Mr. Musslewhite.

18
19 Mr. Howard.

20
21 MR. HOWARD: Is it possible to get as
22 close to -- as close as you can to an escapement goal
23 that you recommend, okay, there's 500 sockeye above and
24 in the lake, we feel good about it, we feel good about
25 the return five years from now, is it possible?

26
27 The reason I'm asking, Madame Chair, is
28 we're at the office everyday when Staff's there putting
29 all the information into the computer and getting it to
30 your office, so now the tribal council at home is
31 considering closing Kanalku for conservation concerns
32 and Angoon has done that before where we told tribal
33 members, yeah, you have the right to fish there
34 according to the State but according to our own feeling
35 you shouldn't be, we recommend you go somewhere else
36 and a lot of the time the tribal members go with our
37 recommendation.

38
39 So instead of, you know, being a
40 monitor I'd like to be a part of the reason the stock
41 comes back. I think we need to take a whole 'nother
42 approach and have everybody come sit at the table. I
43 mean I like the dialogue that was here when we were
44 talking about wolf control, we were talking about
45 everything else, everybody was at the table and
46 listening. They weren't sitting there saying, gosh,
47 you're going to take money out of my pocket if you
48 close the season. And I mentioned earlier that I was
49 involved in seining for seven years. There's a trend

50

1 that they don't want to talk about either, is if you
2 catch 500,000 pounds of fish, the price goes from 20
3 cents a pound to 40, supply and demand. So if you
4 allow them to catch 500,000 pounds and pay them 40
5 cents instead of 20 for a million pounds they still
6 come out with the same amount of money.

7
8 If that makes any sense.
9

10 And then your quality goes up, which
11 means maybe, maybe that the price will go up with the
12 quality of the fish. Sometimes you see, you know, when
13 there's an abundance of pinks around, pinks will sit in
14 a tender for a day or two waiting to get processed
15 because the tender's, you know, overwhelm the processor
16 with fish, that's not quality, that's quantity.

17
18 So if you can come up with a number
19 that you recommend to the ACA Tribe and err on the high
20 number, so then we can say, well, we're going to close
21 it for conservation concerns.

22
23 Thank you, Madame Chair.
24

25 MR. MUSSLEWHITE: Yeah, Mr. Howard,
26 through the Chair. Yeah, I think from my knowledge of
27 all the various Angoon area systems, especially, I
28 think almost all of them have like productive
29 capability left in their lakes, you know, we -- we
30 haven't really seen escapement levels in any of those,
31 you know, Kook Lake, Sitkho Lake, Kanalku where it
32 looks like we're sort of maxing out, at least, the
33 rearing capacity within the lake.

34
35 If that helps.
36

37 So more is better on all those systems
38 for everything that we see, which is not true for all
39 -- for instance Falls Lake, I think, higher escapements
40 into Falls Lake, for example, may actually be
41 detrimental to that system, but as far as Angoon area
42 systems more is better.

43
44 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you.

45
46 Mr. Hernandez.

47
48 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Ms. Needham.
49
50

1 One missing piece of the puzzle here we
2 haven't talked about, do you have what the subsistence
3 harvest were in Kanalku this year, is that information
4 available yet?

5
6 MR. MUSSLEWHITE: Through the Chair.
7 Mr. Hernandez. No, I don't. That's all under the --
8 almost all under the State permitting system so we
9 typically don't really get that data for almost, six
10 months to a year later, because those permits will be
11 turned in all the way up until like next spring, for
12 example, and then tabulated. So usually in our
13 reports, you know, we'll be reporting on the 2017
14 escapements, but the 2016 subsistence harvest so it's a
15 fair time lag there on those.

16
17 Some of these systems we do have
18 harvest monitoring components to those, and I don't
19 have that data. These are really preliminary. We're
20 all still writing reports on all these.

21
22 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Hernandez.

23
24 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah, well, maybe Mr.
25 Howard could kind of give us an idea how the
26 subsistence fishery went there this year from personal
27 experience.

28
29 MR. HOWARD: I could sit on the dock
30 and watch who goes up there and what they come back
31 with and usually -- people in the community that don't
32 have the financial resources understand this, and it's
33 like we're becoming our own little group at home,
34 because the ones that do have the financial resources
35 want control of everything, we -- it wasn't until late
36 in the summer that guys actually started going to
37 Basket Bay. There's probably four families that went
38 up to Kanalku just because there wasn't any kind of
39 return going there. I, personally, went to Hannahs Bay
40 (ph) because my season starts in June. So, total,
41 maybe four families went up into Kanalku, which
42 probably they took maybe -- because they had all their
43 permits, so maybe five people in a family, 125, you
44 know, and they weren't always successful. So you take
45 five families, 125 sockeye, they come back with 70.

46
47 So it was that kind of a year for --
48 and it was that way across the board. I mean Basket Bay
49 showed up late but by the time that actually happened

50

1 it was so late that everybody was doing something else.
2 And Sitkho Bay isn't -- it's so far away from home that
3 gas becomes an issue and everything else plays into
4 effect. This year the weather was out of the south all
5 summer long. So the reason I say that is it's just
6 miserable in Chatham no matter -- and keep in mind we
7 run around in 16 foot Lunds, we don't have a 200
8 horsepower drop bow that we come out -- in other
9 communities just because it's fun. You know it bothers
10 me to see that, there's nothing I can do about it
11 because the State says the resource belongs to
12 everybody.

13
14 We get really concerned at home when
15 our tribal members have to go across Chatham to get
16 what they need. There's a lot of things wrong with the
17 process. I've watched somebody come out and give us
18 our permit, oh, it says 25 on here but I'll write in
19 30, that's not the process. There's a process you have
20 to justify why you're raising the amount of fish
21 someone can bring home. It's been proven in a court
22 case that the process to get to 25 wasn't -- there was
23 no process, somebody in the room said 25.

24
25 So hopefully we can fix this. I have
26 ideas how to do it but you have to get everybody at the
27 table to do it. I mean you can't -- it's hard, for me
28 to come to the table, when I've been pushing this rock
29 up the hill for six years already and there's --
30 there's too much -- I guess, for no other way to say
31 it, there's too much money involved for other people to
32 want to talk about it.

33
34 I get that. I used to make that money.

35
36 So, thank you.

37
38 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
39 Howard. Maybe this issue is something that needs to be
40 raised again by the Council in our annual report,
41 bringing the people together at the table to talk about
42 it and address what they're doing and maybe that's
43 something we need to talk about when we identify those
44 issues.

45
46 Are there any other questions for Mr.
47 Musslewhite.

48
49 (No comments)

50

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1 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Ms. Kenner, are
2 you going to be reporting on the Fisheries Resource
3 Monitoring Program.

4
5 MS. KENNER: (Nods affirmatively)

6
7 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, we're
8 ready too do that.

9
10 MS. KENNER: Thank you very much Madame
11 Chair and members of the Council. Again, for the
12 record, my name is Pippa Kenner and I'm an
13 anthropologist at the Office of Subsistence Management
14 in Anchorage.

15
16 I'm going to be introducing the first
17 part of the presentation for the Fisheries Resource
18 Monitoring Program. There is a presentation in your
19 books but I have just given you all a handout. There
20 were a couple of omissions in the book so I've given
21 you a handout and there's also copies on the back of
22 the table in the back of the room for people in the
23 audience who are interested.

24
25 (Pause)

26
27 MS. KENNER: Okay. So up in the
28 PowerPoint, I'm going to provide a brief introduction
29 and background.

30
31 So our goal today is to present you
32 with a brief overview of the Fisheries Resource
33 Monitoring Program and its accomplishments to date. We
34 will review the funding process, your regional overview
35 and finish up by requesting Council comments on the
36 proposed 2018 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program in
37 the Southeast Alaska and multi-region areas.

38
39 No motion is necessary.

40
41 The Monitoring Program materials are in
42 the handout that I just passed out to you.

43
44 The Monitoring Program is a multi-
45 disciplinary collaborative effort that enhances
46 subsistence fisheries research and provides necessary
47 information necessary for the management of subsistence
48 fisheries on Federal public lands and waters in Alaska.
49 We encourage partnerships between tribes, rural

1 organizations, universities and Federal and State
2 agencies. In addition, we encourage inter-disciplinary
3 approaches to conducting research and addressing
4 issues.

5
6 The Monitoring Program is administered
7 through the Office of Subsistence Management in order
8 to advance projects of strategic importance to the
9 Federal Subsistence Management Program. OSM also
10 coordinates communications and information sharing of
11 ongoing and new subsistence research efforts.

12
13 Since its inception in 2000, the
14 monitoring program has funded 452 projects statewide,
15 with the total allocation of close to \$117 million.
16 The figures on this slide show both the allocation of
17 funds and the number of projects funded through the
18 Monitoring Program by the organization of the principal
19 investigator. It should be noted that some of these
20 funds have been used by the principal investigator or
21 organizations to subcontract with research partners
22 such as communities, tribes and other research
23 organizations. Other includes universities, non-profit
24 organizations and other non-government organizations.

25
26 This slide shows the allocation of
27 funds by region. Established budget guidelines provide
28 an initial target for planning, however they are not
29 final and are often adjusted as needed to ensure that
30 we fund quality projects.

31
32 Now, I'll quickly outline how the
33 Monitoring Program funding process works.

34
35 The state is divided into six regions
36 that approximately correspond to Federal subsistence
37 fisheries areas and to stock, harvest and community
38 issues that those regions hold in common. The Program
39 also accepts and encourages proposals that span
40 multiple regions and this is considered a seventh FRMP
41 region, the multi-region.

42
43 For each of the six regions, OSM Staff
44 work with Regional Advisory Councils and Federal and
45 State fishery and land managers to ensure the
46 Monitoring Program focuses on the highest priority
47 subsistence fishery information needs. Input and
48 guidance from Councils are used to develop priority
49 information needs by identifying issues of local

1 concern and knowledge gaps related to subsistence
2 fisheries. And Page 10 of the handout shows the
3 priority information needs that were developed by this
4 Council for the 2018 notice of funding opportunity.
5 Ideally principal investigators will work closely with
6 Councils in order to develop strong proposals that are
7 responsive to those needs.

8
9 OSM provides technical assistance as
10 needed.

11
12 A complete project package must be
13 submitted on time and follow notice of funding
14 opportunity guidance. A proposal must align with the
15 overall Monitoring Program Mission and address all five
16 specific criteria. So these proposals are scored based
17 on meeting strategic priorities, on their scientific
18 and technical merit, on the investigator ability and
19 resources, partnership and capacity building and the
20 fifth is the cost benefit

21
22 Once submitted, a Technical Review
23 Committee evaluates and rates each proposed project.
24 The Technical Review Committee is a standing inter-
25 agency committee of senior technical experts. It is
26 the responsibility of the Technical Review Committee to
27 develop the strongest possible Monitoring Program for
28 your region and across the state based on high quality,
29 cost effective projects that address critical
30 subsistence questions.

31
32 During the proposal evaluation process,
33 the Technical Review Committee adheres to specific
34 guidelines in order to assess how well a project
35 addressed the five criteria. While some agencies may
36 have more than one senior expert on the committee, such
37 as a social scientist, or a fisheries biologist, each
38 agency only provides one, single, consolidated review
39 and does not score their own proposals. The final
40 score for each proposal is based on an assessment of
41 the five criteria.

42
43 Once a draft monitoring program is
44 developed, it's brought before the Regional Advisory
45 Councils for their input and comments. And this is
46 where we are in the current cycle and we'll come back
47 to it in a moment.

48
49 Additional comments on the process and
50

1 draft 2018 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program in the
2 Southeast Alaska and multi-region areas are provided by
3 the Inter-Agency Staff Committee and these, along with
4 those developed by the Councils, are then forwarded on
5 to the Federal Subsistence Board. The Board takes into
6 consideration comments and concerns generated by the
7 process and endorses the funding plan. Final approval
8 of the funding plan is made by the Assistant Regional
9 Director of the Office of Subsistence Management, who
10 right now is Gene Peltola.

11
12 Okay, I'd like to hand over the
13 presentation to Terry Suminski.

14
15 Thank you, Terry.

16
17 Thank you, Council members.

18
19 MR. SUMINSKI: Okay. In the Southeast
20 Alaska region of Alaska 73 projects have been
21 undertaken for approximately \$22.2 million in funding.
22 Project leads were predominately held by the State of
23 Alaska or rural Alaska organizations.

24
25 I'll give you a second to look at that.

26
27 (Pause)

28
29 MS. KENNER: Do you need help.

30
31 MR. SUMINSKI: Hum? No, I was just
32 pausing for a second so people could look at the graph.

33
34 (Pause)

35
36 MR. SUMINSKI: For 2018 there's an
37 anticipated \$1 to 1.5 million available for new funding
38 statewide and up to -- that's the Department of
39 Interior funding, and up to \$1.6 million for ongoing
40 already funded projects.

41
42 The USDA Forest Service has
43 historically provided up to \$1.8 million annually and
44 -- but the 2018 amount is uncertain at this point.
45 Please note that the available funding for 2018 is
46 budgeted for each project's first year, not the total
47 project request.

48
49 For the Southeast region, 13 projects

50

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1 were submitted. The projects are listed in order by
2 the strength of their Technical Review Committee
3 scores. Justifications for project order begin on Page
4 11 of the handout and project abstracts begin on Page
5 27.

6
7 In the multi-region category, 16
8 projects have been undertaken for approximately \$2
9 million in funding. Project leads were predominately
10 held by the State of Alaska.

11
12 For the multi-region category, two
13 projects were submitted. The projects are listed in
14 order by the strength of their Technical Review
15 Committee scores. Justifications for projects order
16 begin on Page 45 of the handout and project abstracts
17 begin on Page 47.

18
19 So, once, again, we are here at Step 4
20 of the FRMP funding process. We are looking for your
21 input and comments on the Draft Monitoring Program for
22 your region. No motion is necessary.

23
24 Thank you, Mr. Chair -- or Madame
25 Chair.....

26
27 (Laughter)

28
29 MR. SUMINSKI:and I'm ready to
30 take your questions.

31
32 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Pippa
33 and Terry. Are there comments from the Council
34 regarding the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program
35 proposals, or questions.

36
37 Mr. Douville.

38
39 MR. DOUVILLE: I'm just wondering how
40 many of these projects are you able to fund, if any?

41
42 MR. SUMINSKI: Through the Chair. Mr.
43 Douville. At this time, sorry for the weak answer, but
44 we're not completely certain. We have some budget
45 constraints that we have to work through but I can't
46 give you a number at this point.

47
48 Sorry.

1 Thank you.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Ms. Phillips.

4

5 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman
6 Needham. I would like to see the District 1 eulachon
7 assessment moved up to number 1 and then if there are
8 no other recommendations on priority then this would be
9 the priority ranking, on Page 11, as it stands?

10

11 MS. KENNER: Through the Chair. Madame
12 Chair.

13

14 I'd just like to point out that the TRC
15 scores that you see on Table 1 on Page 11, these scores
16 won't change, these are the TRC scores. But there may
17 be information that the TRC didn't have or the match-up
18 with some of your priority information needs that you'd
19 like to tell us about.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Patty.

22

23 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you,
24 Chairman Needham. So you're saying then that if
25 there's only \$500,000 in funding it'll be allocated
26 based on this list of one through 11, and number 1 is
27 number 1 and number 2 is number 2?

28

29 MS. KENNER: Thank you, again, for the
30 question. This is Pippa Kenner with OSM. Through the
31 Chair. So these are the TRC scores and there's also
32 going to be comments, most importantly, from each of
33 the Regional Advisory Councils, from the Inter-Agency
34 Staff Committee that advised the Board, there'll be a
35 public meeting, the Board will weigh in, the Federal
36 Subsistence Board will weigh in and then the final
37 funding decisions are by the Assistant Regional
38 Director of the Office of Subsistence Management, so
39 the Board and Gene will take in comments from every
40 process.

41

42 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you. Are
43 there any other -- Mr. Kitka.

44

45 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Madame Chair.

46

47 Just on a -- for my information, I
48 guess, the monitoring, is this still going to be
49 escapement or are you guys going to do anything with

50

1 habitat or any of the other things that might cause
2 very poor returns to come back because of the survival
3 of the eggs or the smolt. I'm just curious as to --
4 because it seems like we've been doing monitoring for a
5 long time on escapement but sometimes it's not just the
6 commercial industry that's causing the problem,
7 sometimes it's habitat.
8

9 MR. SUMINSKI: Through the Chair. Mr.
10 Kitka. The focus of the 13 projects we received is
11 continued monitoring of escapement for the most part.
12 We didn't -- I'm not sure about the rest of the state,
13 they may have received some habitat projects but not
14 for the Southeast region.
15

16 But there are other avenues and other
17 parts of the Forest Service that are looking at habitat
18 issues, but that's not typically what we fund in this
19 program.
20

21 Thank you.
22

23 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Are there other
24 questions or comments regarding the Fisheries Resource
25 Monitoring Program.
26

27 (No comments)
28

29 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: I have a
30 question or a comment.
31

32 I think what Ms. Phillips brought up
33 was an important point about the District 1 eulachon
34 and the fact that at this meeting we had some pretty
35 constructive conversations regarding the monitoring of
36 that stock and I'm wondering if that information can be
37 provided in this process as additional information that
38 gets forwarded on with these proposals. And I don't
39 know that it necessarily changes the ranking but I
40 think it moves towards the importance that this Council
41 feels that that monitoring needs to continue to occur
42 in some place and that funding should be allocated to
43 it at some point in time, understanding that we can't
44 reprioritize.
45

46 So can our transcripts of that
47 conversation and our main points that come out of that
48 actually be added into the information package that
49 moves forward with the funding request?
50

1 MR. SUMINSKI: Madame Chair. Yes, I
2 think that you spoke loud and clear during the early
3 part of the meeting on the importance of Unuk eulachon
4 and, you know, Forest Service leadership heard that as
5 well. I think there will have to -- I think we'll find
6 some way to continue some monitoring there one way or
7 another. And as far as having this information fed up
8 to the Board, yes, I think that's a great idea.

9
10 Appreciate it.

11
12 Thank you.

13
14 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you. Mr.
15 Bangs.

16
17 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Yes, I think we should
18 we buy Louie a SAT phone and use him as our monitor.

19
20 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Ms. Phillips.

21
22 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman
23 Needham.

24
25 It's been my preference that we see
26 projects sort of like equally divided across the region
27 especially if there's limited funds and I see that this
28 TRC scoring does that but -- and I also prefer projects
29 that have long-term data because if we're going to be
30 losing funding for projects, the consistency in data is
31 important. And I only see one POW project write up and
32 so that regional distribution should be further
33 emphasized.

34
35 Thank you.

36
37 MR. SUMINSKI: Through the Chair. Ms.
38 Phillips, thank you for those comments.

39
40 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Are there any
41 other comments or questions regarding the FRMP Program.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank
46 you.

47
48 MR. SUMINSKI: Thank you, Madame Chair.

49
50

1 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, next
2 on our agenda is to identify topics for the annual
3 report.

4
5 Mr. Bangs.

6
7 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Ms.
8 Needham. I think we just talked about it as far as the
9 funding for these projects is real important to
10 monitoring the resources that we have and a lot of them
11 are having trouble and I think that's something that we
12 should mention in our annual report, that we want to
13 encourage continued funding.

14
15 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
16 Bangs.

17
18 Can I ask Ms. Perry to keep a list of
19 these as we go.

20
21 Thank you.

22
23 MS. PERRY: Yes, Ms. Needham, and I've
24 got them on the screen too, so.....

25
26 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Oh, perfect,
27 great. Are there other topics for the annual report.

28
29 Mr. Yeager.

30
31 MR. YEAGER: Thank you, Madame Chair.
32 I also want to kind of mirror your comment about the
33 Staff, and how important that it is that we see what we
34 can do to help fund them to attend these meetings and
35 how beneficial they are so I would like to see that
36 comment in the annual report also.

37
38 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right,
39 great. Thanks. Other items.

40
41 Mr. Howard.

42
43 MR. HOWARD: It seems like we weren't
44 supposed to lobby for funding, didn't it, I thought
45 that was part of we had to make sure we weren't doing
46 anything like that. It seems like we've had that
47 conversation before. Another way to look at it, instead
48 of -- yeah, the importance of Federal Staff attending
49 meetings in person, that's worded right, but the first

50

1 one I'd worry about, continued funding for FRMP.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yeah, I don't
4 think that what Mr. Bangs wanted to put on the -- in
5 our annual report was anything specific to projects
6 within the FRMP, but for there to be funding through
7 the FRMP process for monitoring projects. Is that
8 correct, Mr. Bangs?

9

10 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Yes. I just want --
11 because a lot of the funding is being cut from these
12 different organizations and I feel that we should
13 encourage having more of these projects. That's what I
14 was getting at.

15

16 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Howard.

17

18 MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Madame Chair.

19

20 I agree with that. I was just making
21 sure that we're not doing something we aren't supposed
22 to.

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you for
27 helping us clarify that.

28

29 Are there other annual report topics.

30

31 Ms. Phillips.

32

33 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you. I was on my
34 soapbox on the phone when I was still in Pelican about
35 this eulachon on the Unuk River and that we -- that the
36 -- I'm rummy, I'm sorry, that the Subsistence Program
37 should more fully utilize TEK in terms of, you know,
38 those who have expert knowledge of the Unuk River
39 system and so I'm just repeating it again.

40

41 Thank you.

42

43 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Ms.
44 Phillips.

45

46 I think it's good to repeat it so that
47 we can get it captured for our annual report topics, so
48 thank you for that.

49

50

1 Are there others.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: I had written
6 one down to bring back up and that was that a proponent
7 who submitted a proposal regarding the lack of a
8 subsistence priority for moose in Berners Bay and I had
9 suggested at some point that that might be an annual
10 report topic so that we can keep those discussions open
11 and potentially develop proposals. And I'm not sure if
12 you want to add that in but I would offer that up as an
13 option as well.

14

15 Any other topics.

16

17 Ms. Perry.

18

19 MS. PERRY: Madame Chair. I just
20 wanted to remind the Council that earlier there was
21 discussion of an annual report topic centered around
22 bringing people to the table on discussions and working
23 on issues. Does the Council feel that as TEK in the
24 annual report item that we've listed up here is
25 appropriate and covers that or did we want something
26 different.

27

28 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: I'm sorry, I
29 guess I'm not quite capturing what you're trying to
30 clarify.

31

32 MS. PERRY: I believe it was Patty,
33 Patty, correct me if I'm wrong, when there was
34 discussion about the importance of involving and
35 engaging all folks that have TEK knowledge and local
36 knowledge, making sure that that folks are included and
37 brought to the table on discussions regarding different
38 issues. So I didn't know if we've adequately captured
39 your thoughts or did I not hear correctly?

40

41 MS. PHILLIPS: Madame Chair.

42

43 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Patty.

44

45 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you. Yeah, you've
46 said it well. I'm running out of steam. But what you
47 just said verbally would be in addition to what's
48 already written.

49

50

1 (Pause)

2

3 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Hernandez
4 and then Mr. Schroeder.

5

6 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you. I think it
7 might be worthwhile to tell the Board that we hope to
8 have some good Federal funding to continue wolf
9 population studies in Unit 2 so we can hopefully come
10 to some kind of an eventual management plan, strategy.

11

12 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you.

13

14 Mr. Schroeder.

15

16 MR. SCHROEDER: Madame Chair. I'm
17 wondering, are we -- have we been stalled out on being
18 able to make comments on TransBoundary mines or were we
19 successful in sending letters?

20

21 So that's a question.

22

23 And if we haven't been successful, I
24 have something to add.

25

26 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: My understanding
27 is that we can bring anything into our annual reports
28 that we've heard from our constituents, subsistence
29 users in the region and I'm not exactly sure what you
30 mean by stalled out. Do you feel we're not getting
31 action and we're just repeating ourselves, and.....

32

33 MR. SCHROEDER: Just I'm trying to
34 recall that the Council -- I mean this is probably
35 three or four years ago, prepared comments on
36 TransBoundary mining and then perhaps was unable to
37 send those on due to weak knees on the part of the
38 Federal Subsistence Program, and if that's the case --
39 and that's what I was asking about, and if it is the
40 case I'm not comfortable having this Council unable to
41 speak on things within its jurisdiction because of --
42 without a clear reason for restricting us.

43

44 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Is there anyone
45 from Office of Subsistence Management that could help
46 answer the question from Mr. Schroeder about the
47 potential for the stalled out communications regarding
48 the letter this Council sent regarding TransBoundary
49 Mines?

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: I believe this
4 letter was written and submitted by this Council,
5 forwarded to the Federal Subsistence Board with the
6 request to have that letter shared with the Secretary
7 of State and I believe Mr. Schroeder is getting at the
8 fact that we're not sure where that is in the process,
9 if it was delivered, if we received a response.

10

11 Ms. Kenner.

12

13 MS. KENNER: This is Pippa Kenner with
14 the Office of Subsistence Management. And because your
15 former coordinator, Robert Larson, is retired, I think
16 we should blame it on him.

17

18 (Laughter)

19

20 MS. KENNER: I don't have information
21 in front of me right now that would let me know if the
22 letter got sent. I am reasonably sure the letter was
23 sent and I'm reasonably sure that someone on the
24 Council would have then received a copy. It's
25 something that DeAnna Perry, your new Council
26 coordinator will look into and I'm really sorry I don't
27 have that information for you, but DeAnna might.

28

29 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Ms.
30 Kenner.

31

32 Ms. Perry.

33

34 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Madame Chair.
35 That letter was sent out to Governor Byron Mallott on
36 January 24th, 2017 and I believe I provided a digital
37 copy in one of the emails shortly after that to all the
38 Council. It did have some attachments to it as well.

39

40 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Ms.
41 Perry. However, was that letter ever sent to the
42 Secretary of the State, as opposed to the State of
43 Alaska?

44

45 MS. PERRY: Madame Chair. I would have
46 to talk with the Division Chief for coordination but I
47 believe we were instructed that we couldn't send
48 certain letters directly and this was a suggestion on
49 how we could make sure that the Board set something

50

1 forth to address, or at least to make the State aware
2 of the Council's concerns, but I can follow up on that.

3

4 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you.

5

6 Mr. Schroeder.

7

8 MR. SCHROEDER: Just if we could figure
9 out some way to have that be an annual report item.

10

11 And, in specific, we have obligations
12 under our charter to comment on -- to provide comments
13 on things that may adversely affect subsistence uses
14 and that responsibility goes -- it's a very, very
15 important responsibility and it just isn't something
16 that we can pass off because of administrative
17 dealings.

18

19 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
20 Schroeder. And, Ms. Perry has incorporated that up
21 there, do you feel it covers your -- that bullet item
22 covers what you're getting at?

23

24 MR. SCHROEDER: I'm not concerned with
25 writing to our Lt. Governor, the action on
26 TransBoundary mining requires national action and by
27 just -- by way of background, so this is on the record,
28 early on in the formation of Councils, Councils were
29 allowed and, in fact, encouraged to write to anyone in
30 the world, the Pope, the United Nations, every Senator
31 and the view was that Councils had, under their charter
32 had the authority to provide communication to virtually
33 anyone. And, obviously that was perhaps a little bit
34 expansive. I don't think there were problems caused.
35 But I do not believe that we should accept limitation
36 on our ability to comment on things that affect
37 subsistence users in our region.

38

39 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you.

40

41 Mr. Yeager and then Ms. Phillips.

42

43 MR. YEAGER: Thank you, Madame Chair.
44 It seems that -- correct me if I'm wrong, but it seems
45 like we had asked for a letter to go to the Board and
46 then be passed on to the Secretaries of the Interior
47 and the Department of Agriculture. And I remember, I
48 believe that those stalled out at that point, that they
49 were not forwarded on to the Secretary of State. So if

50

1 my memory serves me correctly that's where we want to
2 go with that, is, I think is back to the Secretaries
3 and then to be forwarded on to the Secretary of State.
4

5 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Okay. So the
6 annual report item would be that this is an extremely
7 important issue within our region and we want to
8 strongly remind the Federal Subsistence Board that we
9 would like to have these communications go out.
10

11 Mr. Schroeder.
12

13 MR. SCHROEDER: I'd go a little further
14 than strongly, desire, because this is our obligation.
15 I think we've been good volunteer citizens in the
16 Federal Program and done our job really well. I'm not
17 comfortable in having this Council talk about things,
18 listen to communities that are very concerned about
19 TransBoundary mining and then be prohibited from
20 commenting on it.
21

22 So I would like our annual report item
23 to state that -- well, first a request and then to --
24 it'll probably take the Council to agree to this, to
25 say that we will be sending these letters on after we
26 receive a response to our annual report. So I don't
27 want to talk anymore about this.
28

29 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Sounds good.
30

31 Ms. Phillips.
32

33 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman
34 Needham.
35

36 Something in the annual report about
37 adaptive management strategies for timber harvest in
38 Unit 2 to promote wildlife -- increase wildlife
39 populations.
40

41 Also to try to -- I think it's
42 important that we link previous annual reports with our
43 current annual report letters. In 2016 number 1 was
44 poor returns of sockeye salmon and I appreciate the
45 thoroughness of the Board's response back that they say
46 that the Board of Fish and the Board continue to be
47 important venues to address fisheries management and
48 being that we have a proposal before the Board of Fish,
49 I think it's important that funds be available for
50

1 members of the RAC to attend Board of Fish or Board of
2 Game, and additional RAC members to attend the Federal
3 Subsistence Board where necessary.

4
5 Thank you.

6
7 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you for
8 that, Ms. Phillips.

9
10 Mr. Hernandez.

11
12 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Ms. Needham.
13 I'd like to maybe include something in the annual
14 report in concern to regards to climate change and I
15 guess my concern here is that, you know, under present
16 Administration there's been a directive essentially to
17 the Departments to, you know, not consider climate
18 change in various reports and things. I would just
19 like the Board to know that if there is scientific
20 evidence important to a discussion of a management
21 plan, or future plans in regards to climate change, it
22 would not be excluded, peremptorily.

23
24 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you.

25
26 MR. KITKA: Madame Chair.

27
28 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Kitka.

29
30 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Madame Chair.

31
32 I've been sitting here and I've just
33 been sitting here and I was just wondering where our
34 concerns with the Clean Water Act were, specifically to
35 the dumping of wastewater from the tourist ships in the
36 Southeast waters.

37
38 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you. Ms.
39 Perry, were there additional annual reports identified
40 from our Craig meeting for this particular annual
41 report that we can also add to this list so we can see
42 it now to make sure that those topics are also covered.

43
44 MS. PERRY: I went through the minutes
45 and some of the transcripts and I don't believe we
46 identified any annual report items, however in your
47 supplemental materials towards the back I did make a
48 list of all the topics that were discussed in the last
49 two meetings in case you wanted to review that.

1 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you. Are
2 there other items for the annual report.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right,
7 hearing none -- Mr. Howard.

8
9 MR. HOWARD: Can we add continuing
10 concern with the lack of data concerning the fish
11 population and the impact -- documented impacts of
12 what's causing the decline in some systems and not in
13 others. That may further our concerns about the
14 funding for the agencies to continue their work. So I
15 think if we add that I think that will help that cause
16 out.

17
18 I have my own opinion about the
19 TransBoundary issue because when the TransBoundary
20 Commission took up that whole endeavor, Angoon was in
21 the middle of saying we have a problem, there's -- the
22 State found that the seal that was taken by Hawk Inlet
23 had the highest level of mercury ever documented by the
24 State since they started checking them for mercury. I
25 had brought that to the TransBoundary Commission, and
26 until the State of Alaska fixes their water quality
27 standard, which they lowered -- and this is documented,
28 this isn't stuff I made up, so you can actually go look
29 at it, the water quality standard in the State of
30 Alaska was lowered to meet the needs of the mining
31 company because they could no longer afford -- back
32 then they couldn't afford to operate at that current
33 water quality standard. It cost them too much money.
34 So they lowered the standard but they never raised it
35 when the price of metals went up.

36
37 So there's a -- so I believe that, you
38 know, the water quality standard has to -- we have to
39 take a closer look at it and the impact it's having on
40 all the river systems.

41
42 One of our agencies came to our meeting
43 and showed us -- he showed the tribal Council what is
44 happening to our salmon, he showed us the travel
45 patterns of the salmon, they go right past Hawk Inlet,
46 they are -- and ask a Fish and Game biologist, during
47 the whole process, what causes salmon to go back to
48 their original stream, is it the metal in the stream,
49 what causes these salmon to go exactly back to where it
50

1 came from, so what I'm getting to is the impact of
2 dumping metals into Hawk Inlet, which is a mixing bowl,
3 salmon go north and south of there. They go up to the
4 river in Haines, they go south. So if they hit that
5 with being dumped into Hawk Inlet, does that cause them
6 to go in a different direction, they didn't know, I
7 don't know.

8
9 The other concern is is the salmon fry
10 go by there on the way out, does that have an impact on
11 them. There's too many variables. I'd like to see all
12 the information to make an informed decision. Part of
13 that is to continue the fish monitoring. That's
14 important across the board and the need for it.

15
16 Thank you, Madame Chair.

17
18 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
19 Howard.

20
21 Are there any other items to identify.

22
23 Mr. Sensmeier.

24
25 MR. SENSMEIER: Mr. Howard is
26 absolutely right on the mercury problem in Hawk Inlet.
27 And Mr. Howard you can correct me if I'm wrong, a seal
28 was taken there and shared with 10 or 12 families and
29 something did not appear to be right so it was tested
30 in a lab and the level of mercury was 232 times the
31 safe level, the highest ever recorded before that was
32 .2 so it is a problem.

33
34 That's what you call (In Tlingit)
35 storehouse in Tlingit, that's like the grocery store.
36 And not only seal are gotten there, but all other fish
37 and game and it's a real problem. They use mercury to
38 get gold out of gravel.

39
40 Thank you.

41
42 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
43 Sensmeier.

44
45 Are there any other annual report
46 topics to add.

47
48 MR. HOWARD: Madame Chair.

1 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Howard.

2

3 MR. HOWARD: Mr. Sensmeier is correct.
4 And my concern with the mercury coming out of Hawk
5 Inlet is personal.

6

7 Strong leaders have passed on in Angoon
8 because of cancer. Mercury is a shown, well documented
9 carcinogen. The person I'm sitting in his seat was a
10 lot of -- he lived the same lifestyle I did, we worked
11 hard, got the money we needed to live our traditional
12 winter lifestyle and a lot of what he had done was
13 seal, deer, everything we know as a Board to be
14 considered subsistence. So the concern is valid.

15

16 Every day I carry this with me, that
17 this is happening and nothing's being done, every day.
18 I worry for the next generation. I worry for our
19 elders. And nothing's being done. This is why when
20 the TransBoundary speaks, I'm saying what about our
21 backyard. Let's fix what's happening at home and then
22 let's go tell the Canadians this is what we have
23 documented in our backyard, this is what's going to
24 happen if you do what you do.

25

26 But nobody wants to talk about it.

27

28 Nobody wants to address it because
29 there's money involved.

30

31 So when the money is gone, we're left
32 with the fallout of it.

33

34 When I come to this type of venue I
35 miss his strong voice.

36

37 He didn't speak just to speak, he had a
38 purpose. If something was being done wrong that
39 affected our community in a negative way he spoke up,
40 it wasn't because for himself he spoke up, he spoke up
41 -- I saw him speak up for his grandson. This is real.
42 And I think we should take a look at it before we start
43 supporting what the TransBoundary Commission is working
44 on. They should come talk to me and let's fix what's
45 happening at home so they can demonstrate to the
46 Canadians that this is going to be the outcome.

47

48 Thank you, Madame Chair.

49

50

1 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right.

2

3 We have quite a list of topics for our
4 annual report. Ms. Perry, do you have what you need to
5 be able to construct that with assistance of our
6 transcripts, I'm sure.

7

8 MS. PERRY: Yes, I do, thank you Ms.
9 Chair.

10

11 May I take a moment to -- I've been
12 looking at some emails and I think I can shed a little
13 bit more light on the TransBoundary letters, if you'll
14 -- if this is appropriate.

15

16 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Okay. If you
17 could be brief, I was going to give everybody a break.

18

19 MR. DOUVILLE: Can we take five
20 minutes.

21

22 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: I'm sorry.

23

24 MR. DOUVILLE: Five minutes.

25

26 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Five minutes,
27 right now.

28

29 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Why not.

30

31 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Okay. How about
32 we take a 10 minute break and then we'll come back and
33 you can share that with us Ms. Perry and then we'll
34 move on in the agenda.

35

36 (Off record)

37

38 (On record)

39

40 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, we
41 have one more thing before we move into the agency
42 reports.

43

44 Ms. Perry, you have a request to read
45 comments regarding proposals into the record so that
46 they'll follow our record. So would you please do so.

47

48 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Madame Chair.

49

50

1 We received a written comment from
2 Kristin Trott and she would like this read into the
3 record regarding the Berners Bay moose hunt.
4

5 I quote from her letter.
6

7 I am writing my comments directed to
8 two items on the agenda -- oh, I take that back there
9 are two on here.
10

11 Wildlife Proposal 18-11 Berners Bay
12 moose. I feel that the small population of moose
13 coupled with the fact that it is a transplanted
14 population does not warrant a subsistence only hunt.
15 Many Juneau hunters who cannot be allowed a subsistence
16 designation look to having access to the chance to hunt
17 this nearby area. It is not a traditional area of
18 moose hunting and there are many other opportunities to
19 hunt moose on the other large islands. This area is
20 managed very intensely because of the need to hold the
21 number of moose down to the carrying capacity of the
22 browse material. Making this hunt subsistence only
23 would be unfair to local people as well as of minimal
24 ease for the use of subsistence. It takes a great deal
25 of planning and effort to just get into the Berners Bay
26 area. Please keep it available to all.
27

28 And I do want to note that on here
29 testifier slip, she mentions she's addressing Berners
30 Bay moose hunt on behalf of her own views as well as
31 representing Juneau Advisory Committee for Fish and
32 Game.
33

34 I am unsure of her representation on
35 the next comment.
36

37 Her comment is on Wildlife Proposal
38 WP18-13. Remove trap marking requirements in Units 1
39 through 5. I am fully opposed to this proposal. This
40 removes accountability of the trapper. Does not aide
41 US Fish and Wildlife officers in their oversight of
42 this type of activity and poses a hazard to persons
43 utilizing the areas for non-trapping activities.
44 Fishermen who put out pots must have IDs on all their
45 pots and fish traps. There is an equal need to monitor
46 trappers and the amount of traps they put out as well
47 as where they are placed. If the traps are not labeled
48 a trapper can place traps in sensitive areas with no
49 repercussions.
50

1 Please continue to require all traps to
2 be identified with a name and license/permit numbers on
3 them.
4

5 Again, this is signed by Kristin Trott
6 and she does mention Juneau Advisory Committee so I
7 will assume both these are on behalf of that committee.
8

9 Thank you, Madame Chair.
10

11 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank
12 you.
13

14 We're now moving into agency reports.
15

16 Are there any tribal governments on
17 line that would like to give a tribal report.
18

19 (No comments)
20

21 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: I've already
22 asked the tribes present in the room if they were
23 interested in -- they didn't have comments at this
24 time.
25

26 Are there any Native organizations that
27 have a report for us.
28

29 (No comments)
30

31 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Hearing none, US
32 Fish and Wildlife Service.
33

34 (No comments)
35

36 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: How about the US
37 Forest Service, including special actions, if you could
38 all just come together to give your reports that would
39 be great.
40

41 MR. SUMINSKI: Good afternoon, Madame
42 Chair. Council members. Terry Suminski with the
43 Forest Service.
44

45 I'd just like to start out with a
46 summary of the special actions that we took on the
47 Tongass this year. It's in your folder of supplemental
48 materials, you'll find a little table like that with
49 all the actions.
50

1 Rather than read them all, you should
2 have all seen them as they come out so there's, you
3 know, one for eulachon for District 1 closure. A
4 closure for chinook in the Stikine. There's five
5 actions regarding the mountain goat management strategy
6 for Baranof. And then one to close the moose hunt in
7 Yakutat as the quota was reached.

8
9 So I'd be happy to answer any questions
10 you may have on those but hopefully none of them are a
11 surprise at this point.

12
13 Thank you.

14
15 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
16 Suminski. Are there any questions regarding those
17 special actions for Mr. Suminski.

18
19 (No comments)

20
21 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, Mr.
22 Whitford.

23
24 MR. WHITFORD: Madame Chair. Council
25 members. For the record my name's Tom Whitford, I'm
26 the regional subsistence program leader for the Forest
27 Service. And up on the screen right now is a little
28 report I pulled together and it's in your book. And I
29 don't think I'll read the whole thing.

30
31 I did want to highlight a few bullets.

32
33 First I'll cover the 2017 subsistence
34 program accomplishments, which would be the second
35 bolded item there.

36
37 In FY2017 the Forest Service completed
38 14 regular cycle wildlife regulatory management
39 analysis primarily for Southeast Alaska. Forest
40 Service Staff provided input on another 43 wildlife
41 regulatory proposals scattered across the state of
42 Alaska. The Forest Service also analyzed 11 and
43 implemented one special action to address immediate
44 conservation of subsistence use issues.

45
46 Also in 2017 the Tongass National
47 Forest oversaw 10 salmon stock assessment projects
48 through our FRMP program.

1 The Tongass partnered with six tribal
2 groups and with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
3 Our FRMP program this year supported about 30 local
4 jobs in rural communities in Southeast Alaska and they
5 were primarily associated with tribal organizations.

6
7 On the Chugach National Forest, we
8 completed year two of a black bear monitoring project
9 with assistance, cooperation with Alaska Department of
10 Fish and Game. The Chugach also funded a fishwheel
11 reconstruction project with the Native Village of Eyak
12 in cooperation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service.
13 We also funded a gull nest project with the Prince
14 William Sound Science Center.

15
16 In combination, both the Tongass and
17 the Chugach completed 27 deer surveys and four
18 population surveys for moose and mountain goats. Most
19 of the monitoring was implemented through contracts and
20 agreements. All of these Forest Service subsistence
21 projects continue to be vital to effective management
22 of subsistence uses while providing for a conservation
23 of subsistence species.

24
25 Also in 2017 our law enforcement folks
26 issued 10 violations, one warning. And this continues
27 to go down each year, just I think it's in response to
28 a better education that we're providing through the law
29 enforcement and our subsistence program.

30
31 A couple projects that are highlighted
32 in this report would be the Neva Lake weir project,
33 which should be on Page 2, and then also on Page 3
34 would be the Prince William Sound black bear monitoring
35 project. So I won't talk about those two projects,
36 hopefully you'll take some time and read about those.
37 We're excited to have both of those projects ongoing.

38
39 So I'll touch on what our plans are for
40 2018.

41
42 In 2018 we'll again, and thank goodness
43 we'll have \$2.5 million again this year, yeah, we're
44 lucky to have that and in 2019, I'm not quite sure yet.
45 I've kind of heard some news that it may not be up to
46 \$2.5 million in 2019 but I won't talk about that now.

47
48 So the regional office, the way that's
49 distributed through the units, regional office gets a
50

1 little over \$700,000, Chugach \$280,000, Tongass a
2 little over \$1.5 million, and then there's some
3 miscellaneous stuff around \$6,000 so that all adds up
4 to \$2.5 million. With this proposed level of funding,
5 the Forest Service will, I think, continue to meet its
6 ANILCA responsibility. This funding level will
7 continue to fund approximately 40 seasonal employees
8 that collect fish and wildlife population data for both
9 Southeast and Southcentral Alaska. Approximately
10 \$700,000 in 2018 funds will be provided to the Tongass
11 National Forest for our FRMP program and this will
12 support three to five FRMP projects on the Tongass.
13 \$70,000 will be allocated to the Chugach National
14 Forest for their ongoing black bear monitoring project
15 and to develop cooperative projects with the Native
16 Village of Eyak. And the Chugach Forest is also
17 working on development of FRMP projects. Again, in
18 2018 we will provide \$100,000 in funding to OSM, which
19 is used to fund the Regional Advisory Councils,
20 anthropology and fisheries support. Then, again, in
21 2018 we will provide law enforcement with \$50,000.

22
23 So I'm open for questions.

24
25 And then there's quite a bit more in
26 the report if you want to take some time to read it.
27 It might put you to sleep on the plane.

28
29 (Laughter)

30
31 MR. WHITFORD: That's it.

32
33 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
34 Whitford.

35
36 Are there any questions from the
37 Council.

38
39 (No comments)

40
41 MR. WHITFORD: Thank you.

42
43 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you. Is
44 there anyone from the National Park Service that would
45 like to give an agency report.

46
47 (No comments)

48
49 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Anyone from BLM.

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Alaska
4 Department of Fish and Game said that they decided that
5 they -- oh, they do. Ryan said he had 100 slides and I
6 told him to go home.

7

8 (Laughter)

9

10 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thanks, Lauren.

11

12 MS. SILL: Thank you, Madame Chair. I
13 just have a really quick -- I just want to let you guys
14 know I think you might have gotten a copy of this, we
15 just finished up a project in Yakutat and it got
16 published earlier this year so there's a four page
17 summary that's on the table up front if you didn't get
18 one and there's a link to the full report on line if
19 anybody's interested. I just wanted to let you know
20 what we did.

21

22 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: I appreciate you
23 bringing that back to our attention.

24

25 Is there anyone on the Council that has
26 questions for Ms. Sill.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: I actually have
31 a quick question. Are you going to do -- is the
32 Department, your division, going to be working on any
33 needs assessment for Klawock in the near future?

34

35 MS. SILL: Not that I'm aware of, no.
36 We've applied for funding in the past but haven't
37 received any so I don't think we have anything coming
38 up.

39

40 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: And do you think
41 that you'll probably -- do you think that you'll put
42 funding requests forward, continue to put requests
43 forward for such work?

44

45 MS. SILL: Yeah, I would like to. I
46 think we're going to try to work on getting some
47 proposals with strong partnerships, maybe with Klawock
48 or Craig and try to go forward that way and see if that
49 strengthens our proposals.

50

1 Yeah, so I'd like to.

2
3 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Great, thank
4 you.

5
6 Are there any other questions.

7
8 (No comments)

9
10 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thanks.

11
12 Office of Subsistence Management,
13 agency report. You know, Orville, I've been watching
14 you all meeting sitting back there shaking your head,
15 no, no, no, I'm so glad you finally came before us.

16
17 MR. LIND: Thank you, Madame Chair.
18 Good afternoon. And Council members.

19
20 My report's going to be really brief.
21 We talk about our new hires and hires that have left.

22
23 The three new hires we have is Jennifer
24 Harding, of course, you met her. Just a little back
25 ground, Jennifer, she was an internal lateral transfer
26 into our vacant policy coordinator position. Jennifer
27 has a really good knowledge of ANILCA and the
28 subsistence law and policies and we're really happy to
29 have her. Her experience with the multiple Federal
30 agencies and tribal, tribes, in her prior life she was
31 an American Indian Liaison and a Park anthropologist at
32 Yosemite, I'm not sure if I'm saying that right,
33 National Park. Anyway her present job within the OSM
34 as an Anthropology Division Supervisor and she was the
35 acting Fisheries Division Supervisor at OSM. She has
36 given a breadth of experience to excel at the position
37 of the policy coordinator, and I've been with her ever
38 since she's joined us at OSM and she's a real pleasure
39 to work with and I believe she's going to be a huge
40 asset to our office.

41
42 Christine Brummer, young lady who
43 joined us, is hired as a Pathways student while
44 attending UAA. She's an anthropology student. The
45 Pathway Program is a bridge to permanent Federal
46 employment after school. She's from Anchorage. She
47 has two bachelors degrees and is pursuing a Master's
48 degree in Anthropology. And I tell you this young gal
49 has just a lively spirit, a great attitude, she's going
50

1 to go a long way.

2
3 Mr. Thomas Doolittle, who is now our
4 Deputy Regional Director joined us last February and
5 Tom, of course, started his career at the National Park
6 Service and was working for 12 years as a fish and
7 wildlife biologist and a program supervisor and as a
8 law enforcement supervisor. He was a warden for the
9 Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa
10 Indians. This included a reservation, Western Lake
11 Superior tribal commercial fisheries, home use
12 fisheries and the territories of Michigan, Wisconsin
13 and Minnesota. Then he came to Alaska as a supervisory
14 biologist and later became the Deputy Refuge manager in
15 the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuges stationed in
16 Bethel. After seven years in Western Alaska he went
17 back to Wisconsin to reconnect with five new
18 grandchildren and conduct a sharp-tail grouse
19 restoration project for the US Forest Service. And of
20 course once that program was finished he went to the
21 Tongass National Forest supervising the fish and
22 wildlife subsistence and watershed management program
23 on the Prince of Wales Island in Southeast Alaska
24 before accepting the assistant Deputy.

25
26 We have Palma Ingles retired as an
27 anthropologist, she's gone now. And Don Rivard also
28 retired from the OSM fisheries division after 32 years.
29 And Sabrina Schmidt left as our front desk admin, her
30 husband's in the military and they moved to Las Vegas.

31
32 So we are down four positions right now
33 and essentially we are in a hiring freeze but we will
34 attempt to get waivers but they need to go through the
35 headquarters, of course, in Washington, DC, to get
36 approved. At best it may take up to a year to get our
37 vacant positions filled.

38
39 Our preliminary budget for subsistence
40 in the coming year looks okay. It's about the same as
41 last years. The President's budget and recently passed
42 House budget for subsistence looks similar to last
43 year's budget. And we are on a continuing resolution
44 until early December. Of course there's still a
45 possibility of more budget cuts in the future.

46
47 I want to thank you, Madame Chair and
48 Mr. Chair, for the time and opportunity here to get to
49 know you guys and spend more time and by the way that

50

1 dinner last night was tremendous. It made me feel like
2 home. Mr. Schroeder and his family, thank you again,
3 my wife says you're good to go.

4
5 (Laughter)

6
7 MR. LIND: So, thank you, again,
8 guyana.

9
10 Any questions for me.

11
12 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
13 Lind. Are there any questions.

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Nope, all right,
18 thank you.

19
20 Ms. Rosalie, do you have a presentation
21 for the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

22
23 MS. DEBENHAM: Hello and thank you.
24 Those are mostly just pictures to show, it's not like a
25 serious PowerPoint. Hello and thank you, my name is
26 Rosalie Debenham, I am the fish and wildlife biologist
27 for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Alaska region.

28
29 First, I'd like to just let you know
30 that we -- this week we have a new acting regional
31 director from North Dakota and his name is Kevin
32 Bearquiver and he should be with us for the next four
33 months.

34
35 And, secondly, I'm just hear to let you
36 guys know about some of the different projects that the
37 Bureau of Indian Affairs has funded in Southeast
38 Alaska. So every year, and the department I work for,
39 which is the natural resource department, we send out
40 several grants or requests for proposals in climate
41 change adaptation, water quality, fisheries, tribal
42 youth employment in natural resources, invasive species
43 and invasive weeds. And this year for -- in Southeast
44 Alaska we funded different programs under these grants
45 for the Chilkoot Indian Association, Central Council,
46 Tlingit-Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, the Organized
47 Village of Kake, the Organized Village of Kasaan,
48 Petersburg Indian Association, Wrangell Cooperative
49 Association, Hydaburg Cooperative Association and the
50

1 Sitka Tribe of Alaska.

2

3 And so I just wanted to share with you
4 a few of the pictures that we have from our tribal
5 youth employment program. And through this several of
6 the tribes in Southeast Alaska have been able to place
7 a tribal intern with different agencies and
8 organizations within Alaska.

9

10 So we can just scroll through a couple
11 of them. Maybe the next one, yeah.

12

13 And so through these programs different
14 students and university students that belong to the
15 tribe are able to participate in different management
16 activities or gain experience working directly with
17 local managers or agencies or organizations.

18

19 Go to the next one.

20

21 We also have funded several youth
22 camps. This one is actually up in Nome but we had
23 several tribal youths from Southeast Alaska come and
24 participate and in this one they were learning about
25 reindeer herding.

26

27 You can do the next one.

28

29 And then also something we've been
30 tackling with several of the tribes here in Southeast
31 Alaska is invasive weeds, specifically knotweed, which
32 has spread quite a bit throughout Alaska and threatens
33 a lot of our Native species and stream bank stability.

34

35 You can do the next one.

36

37 And so I think many of you who have
38 been in Southeast have seen these hedges and spots of
39 knotweed. Again, we should be having -- we should be
40 really seeing requests for proposals for invasive weeds
41 and tribal youth employment, fisheries and water
42 quality coming in December, hopefully, if everything
43 goes to plan. But if those don't go out in December,
44 they'll go out in January and then they'll go out to
45 all of the tribes in Alaska.

46

47 And that's it, unless any of you have
48 any questions.

49

50

1 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you. Are
2 there any questions.

3
4 Mr. Douville.

5
6 MR. DOUVILLE: What was that invasive
7 plant you were showing there, I didn't get what you
8 called it. And I guess my other question would be, was
9 where are you seeing it.

10
11 MS. DEBENHAM: The invasive weed that
12 we showed was -- that was Japanese knotweed and that is
13 present in Petersburg, Kake, Juneau, Hydaburg, Kasaan
14 and I'm not sure of the other places it's present. But
15 it is present in a lot of Southeast communities.

16
17 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Are there any
18 other questions.

19
20 (No comments)

21
22 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank
23 you.

24
25 MS. DEBENHAM: All right, thank you.
26 Have a good evening.

27
28 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right.

29
30 Wow, you guys, we're going quick now,
31 real fast. We need to work on our future meeting
32 dates.

33
34 (Laughter)

35
36 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Currently we
37 have our winter 2018 meeting date scheduled as February
38 6th through the 8th in 2018 in Wrangell, and we need to
39 confirm this date if we're going to hold it at that
40 time and in that place.

41
42 Mr. Yeager.

43
44 MR. YEAGER: Thank you, Madame Chair.
45 I would just throw out there if anyone else would
46 entertain a move of those dates to the following week.

47
48 (No comments)

49
50

1 MR. YEAGER: If not that's fine.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Are you
4 suggesting we move it to the following week.

5

6 MR. YEAGER: It's not for moose either.

7

8 (Laughter)

9

10 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Right.

11

12 Mr. Bangs.

13

14 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you. I think
15 there would be a conflict for Mr. Wright, once, again,
16 because that is the start of tanner crab season but,
17 you know, I'm just throwing that out there because I
18 know he's going to have to go fishing.

19

20 But, anyway, food for thought.

21

22 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Any other
23 discussion on the dates.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Do we want to
28 hear a motion to approve the dates and time -- or the
29 dates and place for the next meeting.

30

31 (Pause)

32

33 MR. YEAGER: I guess move to approve.

34

35 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Second.

36

37 MS. PHILLIPS: Question.

38

39 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, did
40 you get all that Ms. Perry.

41

42 (Laughter)

43

44 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right. All
45 in favor signify by saying aye.

46

47 IN UNISON: Aye.

48

49 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Any opposed.

50

1 (No opposing votes)

2

3 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: We need to
4 select our fall 2018 meeting date and location.

5

6 Mr. Bangs.

7

8 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Ms.
9 Needham. I was thinking that we haven't been to
10 Ketchikan in awhile and we haven't been to Sitka in
11 awhile, so I'm just throwing those two places out as
12 possible places to go.

13

14 Anyone else.

15

16 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: I would point
17 out that we've tentatively already scheduled October
18 9th through the 11th of 2018. This was a move we made
19 at the last meeting to preschedule ahead of time so we
20 could get out of the cycle of always having to schedule
21 our meetings last, so that's why those dates are
22 provided there.

23

24 So we need to vote on those, is there a
25 preference for Ketchikan or Sitka.

26

27 Mr. Howard.

28

29 MR. HOWARD: Madame Chair. I say Sitka
30 because we're going south to Wrangell at our next
31 meeting, so bring it back north to Sitka.

32

33 Thank you, Madame Chair.

34

35 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Okay.

36

37 MR. HOWARD: So moved, Madame Chair.

38

39 MR. DOUVILLE: Second.

40

41 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, it's
42 been moved and seconded to have our fall 2018 meeting
43 October 9th through the 11th, 2018 in Sitka.

44

45 Mr. Schroeder and then Mr. Kitka.

46

47 MR. SCHROEDER: Just a mild preference,
48 if it could be the previous week but it's not a totally
49 important preference.

50

1 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Ms. Perry, do we
2 know what other Councils have scheduled the previous
3 week?
4

5 MS. PERRY: Yes, Madame Chair. So
6 we're talking about the week of October 1st through
7 October 5th [sic] -- I'm sorry, the projector just
8 died.
9

10 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Correct.
11

12 MS. PERRY: As of last Friday no one
13 had picked any -- no Councils have picked anything
14 during that week.
15

16 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: So we have a
17 motion on the floor for the October 9th through the
18 11th dates. Are we going to try to consider moving
19 those.
20

21 MR. SCHROEDER: Excuse me. I just have
22 a slight preference for the previous week, so I move to
23 amend but if anyone doesn't like that I'm fine with the
24 current dates.
25

26 So I move to amend.
27

28 MR. DOUVILLE: Second.
29

30 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, we
31 have an amendment to the main motion for considering
32 the previous week, rather than October 9th through the
33 11th. Is there any discussion on the previous week.
34

35 Question's been called, all in favor of
36 moving the meeting dates to the previous week, October
37 2nd through the 4th signify by saying aye.
38

39 IN UNISON: Aye.
40

41 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All opposed.
42

43 (No opposing votes)
44

45 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: So it has been
46 approved and so now the main motion is to have our fall
47 2018 meeting October 2nd through the 4th in Sitka 2018.
48

49 Question's been called, all in favor.
50

1
2 IN UNISON: Aye.
3
4 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Awesome.
5
6 MR. KITKA: Nay.
7
8 (Laughter)
9
10 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Did you have a
11 comment earlier when I skipped you.
12
13 MR. KITKA: No, I said nay.
14
15 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Nay.
16
17 MR. KITKA: Yeah, I was a nay.
18
19 (Laughter)
20
21 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: You always say
22 nay because it's Sitka.
23
24 (Laughter)
25
26 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: But we love
27 coming to Sitka.
28
29 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Closing comments, and
30 just work our way around.
31
32 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yeah.
33
34 MR. KITKA: I still want a meeting in
35 Hawaii.
36
37 (Laughter)
38
39 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: How come we
40 didn't vote on Hawaii.
41
42 (Laughter)
43
44 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, now
45 we're at the point where Council members are invited to
46 make any closing comments.
47
48 Are there any closing comments that
49 anyone would like to offer.
50

1 Mr. Douville.

2

3 MR. DOUVILLE: I would like to thank
4 our coordinator, DeAnna, for doing a good job and
5 getting me here and the flow of information I get from
6 her is focused and not overwhelming. It's kind of nice
7 to -- I see a lot of this stuff other places but it's
8 nice to have it emailed to you in a timely fashion, so
9 good job.

10

11 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right.

12

13 Other closing comments.

14

15 Mr. Bangs.

16

17 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Ms.
18 Needham. I'd just like to say that I appreciate the
19 patience you guys show in letting me try to figure this
20 -- keep everything going and flowing. But I really
21 appreciate that.

22

23 But I do have some concerns that has to
24 do with the Office of Subsistence Management. We've
25 struggled with this before with correspondence and how
26 our letters would get drug down and slowed down and we
27 had to be -- we felt, at the time, it was like a gag
28 order, and we discussed that at length and we thought,
29 you know, that maybe it was going to get better.

30

31 But I have to share something with the
32 Council that happened and it's not that big a deal but
33 I was kind of upset about it, just not being asked, but
34 it's been a tradition for our Council to have the
35 Chairman's address on our letterhead. Well, OSM just
36 changed it to OSM, you know, their address, and I
37 thought, you know, they said well that's the way it is
38 with all the other Councils and I said, well, we're not
39 all the other Councils and they can't open the mail, if
40 it's addressed to me at their address, they can't
41 legally open it, so they have to take the letter and
42 then resend it to me and so I just thought, it just
43 doesn't make sense. And then I got to thinking, well,
44 it's just one of those things where OSM appears to me
45 that they just keep chipping away at the Program, that
46 it's our Program, it's not their Program, they're a
47 facilitator, the way I look at it.

48

49 So, anyway, I just wanted to know if

50

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1 any other Council members have any thoughts on that.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
4 Bangs.

5

6 Are there thoughts regarding that.

7

8 Mr. Schroeder.

9

10 MR. SCHROEDER: Well, just to put
11 something on the record for that.

12

13 You know, I note that all of us are
14 volunteers and being the Chair or Vice Chair of our
15 Council entails a good deal of extra work and
16 additional work and Chairman Bangs has been doing a
17 bang up job on this throughout his tenure and I think
18 the Program needs to make his job easier, his volunteer
19 service easier rather than make it harder. And so if
20 something doesn't work for our Chairman, it doesn't
21 work for us as a Council.

22

23 And I'd be particularly concerned about
24 certain notifications, which are required to go to the
25 Chair of SERAC, particularly I believe emergency orders
26 and various other things and a delay just doesn't work,
27 especially since a volunteer has other things going on
28 in their lives, like they may need to make a living or
29 catch some fish someplace. So I really support our
30 Chairman in that respect.

31

32 You know, the note would be to just
33 second what he said, is that, OSM should be making life
34 easier for Councils and I appreciate the efforts by
35 OSM, but I guess this would be one area where perhaps
36 they could do better.

37

38 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
39 Schroeder.

40

41 I'd like to add on to Mr. Bangs'
42 concern.

43

44 I do feel like OSM sometimes hinders
45 the work that we do and some of the inefficiencies that
46 we see with them and Mr. Bangs' example actually now
47 has -- in play it actually did come to the detriment of
48 this Council and that is, our Council forwarded one of
49 the letters written to the State of Alaska and Mr.

50

1 Bangs was busy in Bristol Bay and not reachable and so
2 that letter from this Council was signed by the Vice
3 Chair position, myself, and when the State of Alaska
4 sent correspondence back they sent it back to Cathy
5 Needham, Office of Subsistence Management, because they
6 don't -- because that's how they now have to route
7 their mail and nobody at Office of Subsistence
8 Management could understand why I would be getting mail
9 from the State there so they got in touch with our
10 coordinator and then our coordinator got in touch with
11 me and, of course, so much time had passed and I didn't
12 realize that it could have anything to do with that
13 letter. It had to have been three and a half weeks
14 before that letter finally got forward -- that piece of
15 mail finally got forwarded back to me, I opened it up
16 and it was our official response from the State of
17 Alaska, Department of Fish and Game regarding our wolf
18 letter that we had sent to them. And so that
19 inefficiency caused quite a delay in terms of us being
20 able to dialogue when we have put a letter out there
21 and asked for, you know, a response and it made the
22 State look bad because it took them so long to get a
23 response back to us.

24
25 So I think that that -- I appreciate
26 that you brought up that concern. And I don't think
27 that it's necessarily -- those inefficiencies are
28 limited to correspondence.

29
30 On a separate note, as a separate
31 closing comment, I would also like to, again, reiterate
32 how much I appreciate our Staff's involvement in these
33 meetings and their help to us in going through the
34 proposal process and I appreciate those that
35 participated in the meeting, and I want to call out,
36 Tony, in the back of the room there with Ketchikan
37 Indian Corporation, who has been present for the past
38 three days and always last -- in Craig, he was kind of
39 the last man standing, and there he is again in terms
40 of some of our tribal organizations that come and
41 listen in and I appreciate the time that you put into
42 that.

43
44 Are there any other closing comments
45 from other Council members.

46
47 Mr. Sensmeier.

48
49 MR. SENSMEIER: I'd just like to thank
50

1 everyone for all the work that you've put in. It's
2 good to hear the concerns from different communities.
3 I'm new on this Board and I'm learning, and sometimes
4 I'm lost. Been traveling a lot lately, as we all are,
5 and lately I find a lot of my travels are to see the
6 doctor.

7
8 (Laughter)

9
10 MR. SENSMEIER: A couple of weeks ago I
11 was in Anchorage at Alaska Native Medical Center and I
12 like to go to the arts and crafts shop there, they have
13 a lot of things, and I was looking at the cards there
14 and there was -- it says Haida Pride, Tsimshian Pride,
15 Aleut Pride, Eskimo Pride, and there was one card there
16 that said I'm Tlingit and we don't keep calm.

17
18 (Laughter)

19
20 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Other closing
21 comments.

22
23 Mr. Douville.

24
25 MR. DOUVILLE: At this meeting we have,
26 certainly less support Staff, it's always been more
27 productive to have the proper Staff here. Terry did
28 the best he could but it seems like he was doing the
29 job for other people and it's kind of nice to be able
30 to interact with the biologist, even not in the meeting
31 setting but to have them here so you can get them aside
32 and ask questions and things like that. And I would
33 request that we have Staff, at least at the levels that
34 we had previous to this meeting. It seemed like we had
35 more help and sometimes we do need a lot of help, and
36 this particular meeting was one of them.

37
38 Thank you.

39
40 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
41 Douville.

42
43 Ms. Phillips.

44
45 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you. I'd like to
46 recognize Staff for, you know, pulling together the
47 Staff analysis and for our coordinator to getting --
48 and OSM for getting us the meeting packet, I mean it
49 was like 500-600 pages of stuff, but we got it early
50

1 and so we were able to, you know, get through it and
2 come here with some pretty direct, you know, questions
3 and comments and we wouldn't have been able to do that,
4 you know, if OSM didn't do their part to get it to us
5 so we can be effective, which we are. I can't believe
6 we got through all that material before 5:00 o'clock
7 today.

8
9 (Laughter)

10
11 MS. PHILLIPS: Good job.

12
13 (Laughter)

14
15 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Other closing
16 comments.

17
18 (No comments)

19
20 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right,
21 hearing none, I'd like to turn the meeting back over to
22 the Chair.

23
24 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Cathy. I
25 just want to say I do appreciate Staff and I do
26 appreciate the work that OSM does. And it's not an
27 easy job but they definitely came through with the
28 meeting materials in the last few meetings, it's been
29 spot on, early enough to read through it.

30
31 But, anyway, I just wanted to thank
32 Cathy for helping me out. And I think you guys did a
33 great job of getting through the material like we did,
34 I mean it's just a daunting task and some of these
35 proposals were pretty tough, some of the tougher ones
36 we had, so I just want to thank you guys for moving it
37 along.

38
39 But, anyway, with that I'd like to --
40 oops, Ms. Perry.

41
42 MS. PERRY: If I could, Mr. Chair, as
43 some of you know we had Dr. Jessica Cross in town to
44 give a presentation on Ocean Acidification which we
45 weren't able to do but she is in town and will be
46 speaking at a couple of other venues, so if you're
47 interested let me know and I can let you know where she
48 is speaking. So I just wanted to make sure if anyone
49 was interested they had that information.

50

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1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you for that,

4 Ms. Perry.

5

6 With that I'd like to adjourn the

7 meeting.

8

9 (Applause)

10

11 (Laughter)

12

13 (Off record)

14

15 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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